

One good boob deserves another
Janet Jackson's Super Bowl antics; MLB
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Milk memorial revived
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Independent spirit
6th SF IndieFest
film, video wrap-up.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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AIDS research changes threaten PWAs

analysis by Bob Roehr

Significant portions of AIDS research will be shifted overseas under a huge reorganization of the trials networks proposed by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Many people believe this will negatively affect the associated capacity to treat patients in the U.S., as well as the ability to best manage the introduction of new classes of therapeutics that are on the horizon.

The reorganization comes within the context of funding for AIDS services that is not keeping pace with the increasing number of PWAs who use those services or the escalating cost of drugs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's expanding effort to test more people to learn their HIV status. These factors combine to create a "perfect storm" scenario that threatens to inundate an already struggling system of AIDS care in the U.S.

The looming network reorganization is likely to be a hot topic for conversation among the world's leading researchers when they gather in San Francisco for the 11th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, February 8-11.

The proposed restructuring has been going on in plain sight. But the lethargic nature of bureaucratic change; the focus on principles behind those changes and the lack of specific numbers attached to them; and some general dissatisfaction with the clinical trials networks on the part of the few community activists who focus on research have all blurred the impact that the proposed changes will have on American PWAs.

"The mission of NIAID/DAIDS is to help end the HIV/AIDS epidemic through basic and clinical research," NIAID Division of AIDS Director Edmund Tramont told the AIDS Research Advisory Committee last September. He noted that 95 percent of the epidemic is occurring in developing countries and "an international research agenda will require both scientific and administrative adjustments." At the same time, the DAIDS budget is leveling off, and priorities will have to be adjusted and refocused.

Tramont was very clear that the research networks that DAIDS supports to the tune of about \$400 million a year are going to be restructured and put out for bids again. A huge amount of that effort will shift overseas beginning in fiscal year 2006.

Most of the Democratic candidates for president are attacking the

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Gays push Newsom on marriage issue

by Matthew S. Bajko

Mayor Gavin Newsom's pro-gay marriage stance is being put to the test by suggestions that he either order the county clerk to offer same-sex couples marriage licenses or send the clerk's office packing.

In recent weeks several letters have been sent to the mayor and his openly gay chief of staff, Steve Kawa, asking them to either cut off funding to the clerk's office or order the clerk to relocate outside the city and county lines.

"A mayor who is truthfully and honestly dedicated to equality for an oppressed minority, and justice for the BGLT community, would order the marriage license bureau removed from San Francisco City Hall. ... Heterosexuals would then have a small example of the inequities homosexuals experience in disparate everyday civil liberties and constitutional rights," wrote Brandon Quinlan in a January 21 letter to Kawa.

In a letter printed in the January 29 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, Dale Hamilton echoed those same sentiments and said instead of marriage, the city should only sanction domestic partnerships for all couples, whether gay or straight.

"If San Francisco stops performing hetero



A demonstrator at last year's Freedom to Marry Day rally on the steps of City Hall. Couples will gather for a rally in support of gay marriage on Thursday, February 12 at noon.

marriages other cities will soon follow suit, just as they did with the domestic partner benefits," wrote Hamilton.

In a telephone interview, Hamilton said

the issue is a matter of fairness, and by the city taking such a step it would highlight the fact domestic partnerships are not equal to civil marriages.

"It would just make a statement that DP benefits are not equal because if you give them to heterosexual people they are going to turn up their noses at them," said Hamilton, a 30-year resident of the city who lost his partner five years ago. "I am very serious about seeing this happen because it will make a statement to the country right now that it is just not fair."

A dozen gay couples are expected to descend on the clerk's office next Thursday, February 12, National Freedom to Marry Day, to ask for marriage licenses. Sponsored by Marriage Equality California, it will be the fifth time gay couples have tried to obtain marriage licenses from the county clerk.

"We will be down there on the 12th at noon so they will have an opportunity to go forward with their support and grant us marriage licenses," said Molly McKay, MECA's Northern California executive director.

Neither Kawa nor Peter Ragone, Newsom's spokesman, could be reached for comment by press time. Nancy Alfaro, who runs the county clerk's office, did not return a call seeking comment.

Newsom has long said he is a supporter of gay marriage rights. The day after President Bush's State of the Union speech, which Newsom attended in Washington D.C. last month, he released a statement calling Bush's comments against gay marriage unacceptable.

In the January 20 speech, Bush indicated

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Cirque du Soleil offers job to HIV+ gymnast

by Cynthia Laird

Cirque du Soleil has offered to rehire HIV-positive gymnast Matthew Cusick for the same position he held prior to being fired, following a determination by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that the company likely engaged in discrimination against the aspiring performer.

Late last Thursday, January 29, Cirque du Soleil sent out a release stating that it will "reintegrate" Cusick as a performer in one of Cirque du Soleil's many shows. Renee-Claude Menard, director of public relations for the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, February 2 that the company's offer would be for the same job Cusick previously trained for – being part of an aerial trapeze act.

"It would be the same job that he had been invited to do in the beginning, an aerial



Cirque du Soleil has offered to rehire HIV-positive gymnast Matthew Cusick.

trapeze act. That would be a group [performance slot]," Menard said.

San Francisco resident Aaron Baldwin, a friend of Cusick's and one of the leading forces behind protests against Cirque du Soleil, had expressed concerns that Cusick would win nothing if relegated to a solo performer's slot, rather than performing as part of a group.

Baldwin said he was "hesitant" to comment further on the case until more details are provided by Cirque du Soleil.

Gay and AIDS activists have been regularly protesting at various Cirque du Soleil performances in cities across the country in an effort to draw attention to the matter. There were two informational pickets staged late last year in San Francisco when Cirque du Soleil's *Alegria* was staged in the city.

When Cirque du Soleil fired Cusick last year, it maintained it was doing so for safety

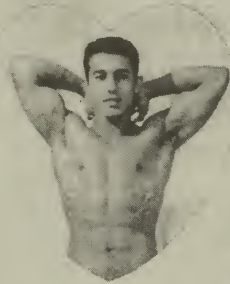
reasons, though it never denied firing Cusick because of his HIV status. On Monday, Menard said that since the EEOC investigation and an investigation against the company by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (Cirque du Soleil's *Alegria* show was staged in the parking lot of the former Pacific

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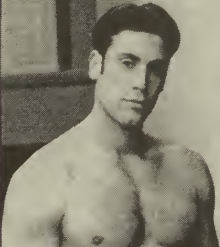
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Kids of LGBT parents speak out Tuesday

by Zak Szymanski

With all the attacks against LGBT relationships lately, it may be refreshing to know that positive examples of queer and gay families are putting themselves into the spotlight to discuss their experiences and address questions and concerns.

On Tuesday, February 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., a panel of teens and young adults whose parents are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender will speak at an educational symposium entitled, "Hear It From Us: Perspectives of Youth with LGBT Parents."

The discussion will be held at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, and is presented by the LGBT Family Collaborative, a group that includes the organizations Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere; Our Family Coalition; the center; and New Leaf: Services for Our Community.

Tuesday's panel participants come from COLAGE's Youth Leadership and Action Program and range in age from about 14 to 20, ac-

cording to COLAGE program coordinator Meredith Fenton, who noted that the YLAP panels are often audience-directed through an extended question-and-answer session.

"Because the panel is so guided by the Q&A, it's up to the audience to bring most of the topics up," said Fenton. "The youth talk about their views on a variety of topics, including political matters, and they have really varying and strong opinions on issues."

Introductions take about 20 minutes, said Fenton, with the remainder of the time dedicated to audience questions and discussion. Attendees can expect to hear personal stories about growing up with LGBT parents; special challenges kids of LGBT parents have faced; and suggestions about how the LGBT and mainstream communities can support children from alternative families. Specifics will include school anecdotes; experiences with peers; advice to parents of younger children and prospective LGBT parents; and the emerging queer community that is being redefined by its offspring.

Panelists share many of the same experiences, but their back-

grounds are diverse; their families may have been created through donor insemination, adoption, or previous heterosexual marriages, and many of them have dealt with divorce, mixed-race family issues, and a wide range of prejudice.

"If you wonder how kids with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents react to homophobic judges, lawmakers, religious leaders, peers, and school administrators, this is your chance to find out," said COLAGE Executive Director Beth Teper. "COLAGE youth members speak truth to power every day, turning personal experiences of rejection, harassment, and discrimination into political statements for social equity and justice for all."

Tuesday's forum is meant for a broad audience, specifically including LGBT parents and prospective parents, but also welcoming all teachers, providers, and "anyone who wants to know what it's like to have gay parents," said Fenton.

The event is free of charge, although donations are always welcome. Free childcare is available for center attendees by calling KidsSpace at (415) 865-5533. ▼

Community forum Saturday for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

by Cynthia Laird

A memorial service for two well-known black San Francisco activists — Reggie Wilson and Brandy Moore — and a strategic planning session for mobilizing the African American community around HIV research and prevention will mark the fourth annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day this weekend.

Hosted by the HIV research section of the city's health department, in partnership with several community leaders, the event is set for Saturday, February 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, 330 Ellis Street.

The memorial celebration and planning session follow the mandate of last spring's well-attended

"Dispelling Myths" forum that articulated the urgent need for African Americans to become more involved as planners and participants in HIV prevention research. Organizers said that Saturday's event "will produce a strategic plan for education and mobilization in loving memory of some of the city's first African American activists around HIV, Williams and Moore."

"This epidemic is far from over — African Americans make up approximately 12 percent of the population of the United States, yet 38 percent of total AIDS cases reported in this country are among members of the black community," said Gavin Morrow-Hall, an event organizer. "It's going to take collaborative efforts like this one to turn the tides in the fight against HIV."

The event will include: a

memorial for Williams and Moore, given by longtime San Francisco activist Bart Casimir; a panel discussion featuring Jimmy Loyce, AIDS office director, and Gil Gerald, development consultant, to talk about the history of community organizing in the African American community and the need for it now; and the creation of a community mobilization plan for this year. Lunch will be served. The event is free.

San Francisco is one of more than 60 cities across the U.S. that will sponsor programs on Saturday to call attention to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and seek solutions to stop it. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is co-funded and sponsored by the Community Capacity Building Coalition. For more information, visit www.blackaidsday.org. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGBT center predicts break-even year

by Matthew S. Bajko

Six months into its second fiscal year, San Francisco's LGBT Community Center is on its way to becoming fiscally solvent.

A confident Thom Lynch, executive director of the center, announced during a town hall meeting last week that the fledgling organization has been able to plug what was a sinking fiscal mess.

"I hope in July I can be up here saying we had a break-even year in our second year," Lynch said during a sparsely attended meeting Thursday, January 29. "I thought it would take two to three years to balance the budget."

Although a recently conducted audit of the center's finances shows a nearly \$222,500 deficit projected for fiscal year 2003-2004, Lynch said it is very likely the center will be able to raise at least \$250,000 over the next six months to balance its budget.

"We are lucky. Our really big struggle was last year and we are on our way back," said Lynch. "It is still a soft recovery and we need to push this along."

Last year the center had to lay off staff and then-Executive Director Brian Cheu resigned after only nine months on the job. During fiscal year 2002-2003 the center reported close to \$474,000 in operating losses, but Lynch noted that is an improvement over original predictions.

"When I first started, we expected \$750,000 in losses ending in June 2003," said Lynch, who was hired in May and took over management of the center in June.

According to the center's audit, during its first fiscal year it rang up \$1.8 million in expenses but only took in a little more than \$1.3 million. The center collected around \$303,000 in revenues while more than \$1 million came from government, foundation, and community support.

During the first six months of fiscal year 2003-2004, the center has already garnered close to \$611,000 in government, corporate, and community support and collected \$96,185 in revenue. It reported \$929,559 in expenses compared to \$707,138 in total revenue and support.

Lynch said the center just received \$50,000 from Wells Fargo, has another \$300,000 in commit-

ments over the next six months and expects to receive an additional \$300,000 in support. He did not name where that money would come from due to ongoing negotiations.

Those numbers do not include proceeds from this month's *Lion King* benefit, or the center's membership renewal drive. Over the next several weeks, nearly 2,300 members will be asked to renew their memberships at the center. Lynch said the renewals alone could net the center enough money to balance its books this year.

"We are beginning to see a very tender recovery that needs to be nursed along by the community," said Lynch.

He also is hopeful he will complete talks with several nonprofits which want to lease office space within the building long term.

"It will increase our revenue while decrease our expenses," said Lynch.

Vince Constabileo, who will operate the center's cafe with his partner, attended the meeting and said he was encouraged by the financial report as well as hearing 9,000 people visit the building each month.

"Hearing there are 300 events a month is encouraging. The numbers sound good so far," he said.

The cafe, to be called Three Dollar Bill Cafe, is set to open this spring. Center officials and the two men expect to wrap up lease negotiations this month, and Constabileo said he is already working on getting the building permits and selecting a contractor to build out the ground floor space.

"Once we choose the contractor we will know more about the opening date," he said. "We just can't wait to get the doors open."

The new president of the Golden Gate Business Associa-

tion, Jim Cherry, also said he was pleased with the fiscal report. The gay business group moved its offices into the center last year and is launching a new program where it is asking its members to also become members of the center.

Center officials "are doing a good job. I can see it coming out of the hole," said Cherry, who was a founder of the center.

Last week, Lynch formally announced he had hired Rebecca Rolfe as his deputy executive director. Rolfe, who had been a consultant at the center for 10 months, will receive \$90,000 a year and oversee the day-to-day management of the building.

Rolfe said she decided to become a full-time employee because the center is at a point where it can begin to fulfill its promises to the community.

"I really feel like we have made a huge shift from a crisis mode of operations to really trying to manage the issues we have here," said Rolfe.

The center also hired Ken McPherson as its new volunteer coordinator. Lynch said that McPherson will receive between \$30,000 to \$45,000 annually.

The center is still looking to hire a director for the neighborhood economic development organization it will be operating with funding from the city. Lynch is also looking to hire a new development director after the departure of Melinda Capiras, who returned to doing consulting work.

The center is also trying to renegotiate its long term debt, which Lynch said is about \$2.8 million with a 5 percent interest rate.

"We are doing pretty well but we need the community's support," said Lynch. "I hope people see we are trying to be a well-run, well-managed center." ▼



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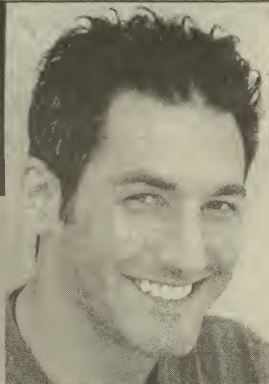
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Last call at 4 a.m.?

by Zak Szymanski

Hit the town for late night fun in just about any other tourist destination city and you'll find something San Francisco lacks: people.

San Francisco's 2 a.m. "last call" for bars affects not just drinkers, but industries that cater to night life, and on a broader scale, the local economy.

Earlier last-calls are also associated with more alcohol related traffic deaths, according to data from the National Traffic Safety Administration, as bar patrons tend to cram more liquor into the space of an hour when pressed for time.

In the coming days and weeks, the San Francisco Entertainment Commission, the Late Night Coalition, and local and state legislators will see the fruits of their labor ripen—and get picked apart—when resolutions and legislation will attempt to extend the state-mandated last call hours to 4 a.m.

The proposed change is in line with the policies of major cities such as New York and Miami, as well as smaller cities like Portland, Oregon; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis; Cleveland; and Fort Worth; all of which hold last call after 2 a.m.

Sleepless residents who live near bars, or parents worried about their partying teenagers, take heart. The proposed measures would affect only the small amount of establishments already zoned for after-hours in the city;

the statewide change would allow each city or jurisdiction to opt-in or opt-out of the extended hours; and the legislation does not take away parents' ability to set curfew for their kids.

Furthermore, said proponents like Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), the extended hours will simply bring San Francisco up to speed with the rest of the country, allowing its businesses and workers to earn more, and attracting more visitors who factor night culture into their destinations.

"The businesses which would be affected are many. All the wait staff of restaurants and bars would make more wages. Musicians would be employed for longer hours. All the multicultural and ethnic expressions of dance, music, and poetry would have greater opportunities to carry on later into the night," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I think it's rich with possibility."

Leno has drafted last call legislation that he plans to introduce to amend the state Alcohol and Beverage Control regulations. He is awaiting the nod of approval from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who will begin hearings today (Thursday, February 5) on a resolution sponsored by Supervisor Aaron Peskin that encourages the state Legislature to take action to amend last call hours.

Today's committee hearing will allow for public comment and concerns, and the city resolution is then expected to be heard by the full Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 10.

day, February 10.

Leno and other supporters of extending last call said that most of what they have heard in terms of opposition is not relevant to the proposed changes.

"The hearings will allow for a full explanation of what we're doing, so that when people say, 'I don't want my corner bar open later,' we can say, 'Nor do we,'" said Leno, adding that to his knowledge, there are no residential neighborhood bars presently zoned for after-hours operations. "Once we clear up the misconceptions we believe most of the opposition will dissipate. This is a change that is not only good for business, jobs, and tax revenue, but is also respectful of neighborhood concerns."

Terrance Alan is the president of the Entertainment Commission and chair of the Late Night Coalition, which got the ball rolling on this issue last year. Alan said that the SFLNC determined San Francisco was at an economic disadvantage due to its early last call, but he also said the group was impressed by national figures that correlated later bar closing times with greater safety. Here in San Francisco, he noted, a 4 a.m. bar closure would also allow many patrons to take morning BART trains home instead of driving while intoxicated at an earlier hour.

Today's committee hearing is at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday's board meeting is at 2 p.m. Only after board approval will Leno introduce his legislation in the Assembly. ▼

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Duffy pushes housing

by Matthew S. Bajko

Twelve homeless queer youth could be moving into supportive housing this spring under a plan being pushed by Supervisor Bevan Duffy.

Dubbed the queer youth supported housing project, the idea is to house up to a dozen LGBT young adults at the Perramont Hotel at 2162 Market Street near Sanchez. In addition to providing a room, the program would also include on-site services ranging from drug and alcohol counseling, money management, case management, food assistance, and job referrals.

Duffy said the idea is "to create supportive services that would help ensure the success of these young adults once we were able to get them into housing."

The city is in negotiations with the hotel's owner, Peter Patel, and hopes to secure an affordable room rate. Duffy said he would like to see the youth move in as soon as possible.

"If things go well, I want to get this started in the next month," said Duffy.

Patel said while he has agreed to work with Duffy and neighborhood groups on the proposal, he has not agreed to anything in writing as of yet.

"This is still in the initial phases at this point," said Patel. "We just had minor conversations. They are receptive and I am open to hearing what Supervisor Bevan Duffy has to say and the neigh-

borhood has to say."

Since December, Duffy has been meeting with business owners, area residents, service providers, police, and city officials to hash out his idea and develop a program the community can support. Last week members of the working group toured the hotel.

Duffy said, "I could live there. I would certainly want to live there than live on the street."

Darius Kayhan, director of housing and homeless programs at the Department of Human Services, who is leading the talks between the city and the hotel, agreed it is a nice hotel.

"It's in good shape, the owner keeps it in good shape. The rooms are clean and safe," said Kayhan. "We think it is a great place for youth to move above and beyond vulnerable situations, i.e. being on the streets."

In January, Duffy signed up eight potential candidates for general assistance funds from the city. Most of the \$400 monthly payments will go toward paying for their housing, with a small portion

set aside for food. The youth are also signed up for the food stamps program, where they are given a debit card to make purchases.

Instead of constructing a new building from the ground up, Duffy said that "in this fiscal climate, when we are talking about serious budget cuts and salary give-backs, there isn't the money to do bricks and mortar programs. We need to work creatively with youth services and community agencies to see what we can do."

Unlike the acrimony over the transitional housing program former Supervisors Mark Leno and Leslie Katz proposed in 1999, Duffy's plan has preliminary support and praise from merchant and neighborhood groups.

"We know of the history of what happened at 17th and Castro and the neighborhood opposition there was reaction to something they weren't involved in from the early process," said Peter Allen, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association president. "From that perspective this is a big improvement." ▼



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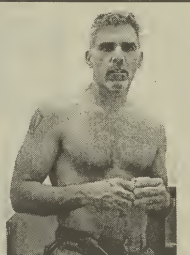
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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club

ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE MARCH 2 ELECTION.

Help Take Back the Democratic Party. Elect Progressives to the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) and support progressive ballot measures.

PRESIDENT
Howard Dean

US SENATE
Barbara Boxer

US CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 8
Nancy Pelosi



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 3
▼ Carole Migden

STATE ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT 12
No Endorsement



STATE ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT 13
▼ Mark Leno

US CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 12
No Endorsement

STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES

YES — PROP 55

YES — PROP 56 Budget Accountability Act, hold legislators accountable to pass a budget on time

NO — PROP 57

NO — PROP 58

LOCAL MEASURES/ CHARTER AMENDMENTS

YES — PROP A

YES — PROP B

YES — PROP C

YES — PROP D Retirement benefits for Domestic Partners

YES — PROP E

NO — PROP F

YES — PROP G

YES — PROP H Help Rescue Our Public Schools

YES — PROP I

NO — PROP J Protect our neighborhoods. Oppose the giveaway to developers.

SAN FRANCISCO DEMOCRATIC COUNTY COMMITTEE:

Support Progressive Democrats

13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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▼ David Campos*

Gerry Crowley*

▼ Michael Goldstein*

▼ Robert Haaland*

Joe Julian*

Jonee Levy*

▼ Rafael Mandelman*

▼ Greg Shaw*

▼ Scott Wiener*

12TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Richard Hansen*

Dan Kalb*

Greg Kamin*

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BAY AREA REPORTER

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OPEN FORUM

Civil unions are not enough

The battle for gay civil marriage advanced on Wednesday, after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court – at the request of the state Senate – explicitly erased all doubts about its ruling in November that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. Only full, equal marriage rights for gay couples – rather than civil unions – would be constitutional, the court said in its 4-3 decision.

The ruling, according to a report from the Associated Press, sets the stage for a planned constitutional convention in the Bay State next week, during which the Legislature will consider an amendment that would legally define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. My, but we're sick of hearing that noxious definition – and angry that it keeps cropping up in various state laws. By the time you read this, Republican Governor Bob Taft of Ohio likely will have signed the country's most sweeping gay marriage ban, one that also prohibits gay and straight domestic partners of employees of state agencies from receiving benefits.

As the fight for equality rolls along in Massachusetts, however, look for President Bush to pump new energy into the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Bush's approval ratings are hovering just below 50 percent as he heads into his re-election campaign; and we're certain his political guru, Karl Rove, is working overtime to shore up support on the far right. Some Republicans are angry about the federal deficit and Bush's budget, others are upset the president hasn't yet firmly come out in support of the FMA. It's far easier for Bush to do the latter than the former, since his tax cuts and spending for the war in Iraq have set the county deep into the red.

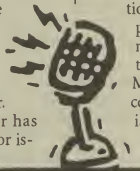
We've been writing about gay marriage a lot in this space recently, but it's clear that the issue is quickly becoming a topic of national debate. Locally, gay marriage advocates want San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to relocate the county clerk's office

outside the city limits if it will not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. After considering the issue, we'd like to support that effort and call on the mayor to take a public stand on the matter – ideally ordering the clerk's office to issue the licenses to same-sex couples. If the state should try to stop the city, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger would be forced to take a public stand on the matter. (Since taking office, the governor has neither met with gay lawmakers nor issued any public comments on pressing gay rights issues.)

If Newsom did move the clerk's office outside the city, straight couples might be inconvenienced, but we believe it's a small price to pay for standing up for what's right. And, if most San Francisco heterosexuals are truly our allies in this fight – and Newsom has gone on

record supporting gay marriage – surely they'll understand the need to travel some extra miles to get hitched. We can't even do that.

Dangerous times often call for drastic action. We're at the point where homophobes want to relegate us to permanent second-class status in this country, and we cannot let that happen. Mayor Newsom should exhibit courage and stand up for what's right: issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. While some may whine that things are happening too fast, we beg to differ. We've been fighting for equality for decades and now, in the 21st century, that equality still remains elusive. You can show your support by attending a Freedom to Marry Day rally on the steps of City Hall next Thursday at noon. The more people who show up, the better. ▼



Editorial

NEWS ITEM:
GAY MEMBERS OF ATLANTA GOLF CLUB SUE TO HAVE THEIR PARTNERS ACCORDED SPOUSAL MEMBERSHIP.

UNPLAYABLE LIE

SFAF on ADAP

by Mark McCormick
and Paul Wisotzky

On January 22, the Bay Area Reporter published an Open Forum piece by Patrick Monette-Shaw ("ADAP: CA's Domestic Casualty?") that is filled with misinformation, inaccuracies, and undermines our community's efforts to ensure full access to HIV drugs for those who need them in our state. It is unfortunate that at a time when the HIV community needs to be brought together to protect the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program and other critical HIV programs from devastating cuts, Mr. Monette-Shaw instead distracts us from this effort with misinformation and completely unrealistic proposals.

First, let us be clear about the very real ADAP crisis we face as a community. For the first time ever, people living with HIV disease in California are at risk of losing access to HIV medications that keep them alive and healthy. Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed capping enrollment in California's ADAP, a program that provides essential HIV medications to Californians who cannot otherwise afford them. ADAP helps those most vulnerable in our community – nearly 80 percent of the people in the program earn less than \$17,500 a year. If the governor's proposal is approved, the program will be able to serve a limited number of people. If you need HIV drugs you may only be able to access ADAP if someone else leaves the program. Nearly 1,500 people every year would be forced to wait for entry into ADAP for medications that would save their lives.

Given the current economic and political climate in Sacramento, nothing short of a major community mobilization is likely to assure that California's ADAP receives the \$25 million funding increase needed to protect this life-saving program.

Sadly, Mr. Monette-Shaw does nothing to promote such a mobilization or to encourage our state elected officials to live up to their obligation to ensure that those with HIV have access to the drugs they desperately need. Instead, he argues that community-based organizations should be responsible for picking up these costs, letting the government off the hook for ensuring low-income individuals have access to adequate HIV care. Such an expectation is irresponsible and unrealistic. It is the government's responsibility to ensure and protect the health of its citizenry. People's access to life-sustaining HIV drugs should not hinge on philanthropic giving trends that can change erratically and without notice.

Mr. Monette Shaw bases his claim that community groups are flush with cash to pay for ADAP on a bizarre and false statement that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has "diverted" \$22.4 million dollars to its global affiliate, the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation. This is just plain wrong.

Mr. Monette-Shaw has falsely represented the relationship between SFAF and Pangaea. He has grossly overstated the funding provided to Pangaea and also failed to explain that the vast majority of funds provided to Pangaea through SFAF come from a large earmarked grant from Pfizer (\$11.5 million) specifically designated for the construction of an HIV treatment clinic and training facility in Uganda. These funds were designated for the Ugandan effort exclusively and would never have been available for SFAF's local programs or for other HIV-related efforts in California. To assert that these dollars were "diverted" from local resources is simply not true. Mr. Monette-Shaw distorts figures from our audited financial statements, documents we provided

to him and would provide to any member of the public.

SFAF does have a successful local fundraising event – the AIDS Marathon – with proceeds earmarked for three purposes: SFAF programs and services, other Bay Area HIV prevention and care programs, and treatment access programs in the developing world. All AIDS Marathon participants are aware that funds will be disbursed in this manner and, in fact, SFAF has received very positive feedback from runners and their donors that the global component has enhanced people's willingness to participate in and donate to this event. Wonderfully and predictably of the

Bay Area, participants have been enthusiastic about being part of the solution to both our local

AIDS crisis and the devastating impact of the disease in the developing world.

We encourage all Bay Area residents to join us to get involved in the fight to protect ADAP. We need everyone to get out the word to the governor and the California Legislature that capping ADAP enrollment and reducing benefits is unacceptable and that it would be reprehensible for the state to deny access to life-saving medications to those in need. This truly is a matter of life and death for people with HIV in California. To get involved, please join the SFAF HIV Advocacy Network by going to our Web site at www.sfaf.org or by calling the public policy department at (415) 487-3080. ▼

Mark McCormick is the chair of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's board of directors. Paul Wisotzky is the chair of the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation's board of directors and a person living with AIDS who relies on ADAP for his HIV medications.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

'Loyalty pledge' is political muzzle

During the Milk Club's recent endorsement process, we uncovered an outrageous tactic that we believe severely damages the Democratic County Central Committee races and the local Democratic Party. In return for their support, it seems that a small group of individuals is requiring that DCCC candidates sign a pledge to support only Democrats in non-partisan races and to revoke the Democratic Party charter from clubs who do otherwise. In at least one case, a candidate who refused to sign the pledge was initially made to leave the room.

For decades, the Harvey Milk Club has been a leader in promoting progressive leadership within the Democratic Party. We are proud of our record of supporting candidates who promote and represent the principles of the party. However, let's be candid. There have also been times when our Democratic principles required us to condemn a political machine (led by a Democratic mayor) that sold our city to the highest bidder while leaving poor people to fend for themselves. And regrettably, there have also been some nonpartisan races in which the candidate most reflective of the Democratic values we hold dear was not a Democrat. In these cases, we believed our actions were principled and represented our party's platform far better than the "Democratic" alternatives. However, because we have taken these principled steps, we believe the "pledge" is, in part, an effort to retaliate against the Milk Club for these past actions and to withhold support from candidates who do not join in their condemnation.

At a time when it is absolutely imperative that the Democratic Party unites and expands its support, the Milk Club believes this tactic to be utterly divisive and noxious. Whether intentional or not, it sends an unmistakably loud message to progressive individuals and clubs that we are dispensable and unwelcome. Despite the Democratic Party's rich history of promoting civil rights, free speech, and diversity, this "pledge" places a conventional muzzle on individuals who refuse to rubber-stamp the Democratic candidate however removed s/he might be from the party's principles or platform and promises that those who step out of line will be properly punished!

We believe those promoting this McCarthyesque "loyalty pledge" have an eerily insular view of what is in the best interests of the Democratic Party. Ours is the party that fights for change, equality, freedom, and justice. Ours is the party that questions those who seem unwilling to support these values – even if they call themselves Democrats. This is the foundation of the Democratic Party that we, the Milk Club, embrace.

We hope the authors of the pledge will reconsider the destructive and intolerant nature of their actions. The party has a huge agenda to address in the months ahead. The progressive wing of the Democratic Party will be decidedly crucial in electing a Democratic president, and the Milk Club stands ready to do its part. Attacking progressive Democrats hardly seems an appropriate way to strengthen the party and defeat George W. Bush.

Michael Goldstein, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

It's raining bonds

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2004-05 budget calls for over \$50 million in cuts to AIDS related programs. About \$45 million in "savings" would come from freezing the number of patients who would be allowed into the AIDS Drug Assistance Program at the level of December 31, 2003. If this part of the budget becomes law and you need help paying for your medication, you will have to wait until enough people drop out of the program (i.e. die or move out of the state), before you can enroll in the program. If the waiting list is long, you may die first. The budget also calls for an additional \$6 million in additional cuts in a variety of AIDS related programs. And there's more. If reimbursement rates to doctors are cut under MediCal (another part of the budget proposal), you may not be able to find a doctor at all.

As bad as all this sounds, the situation will get a lot worse if Proposition 57 (the governor's \$15 billion deficit bond measure) does not pass at the March election. His budget director has already warned that more budget cuts (billions of dollars worth) will be needed if Proposition 57 is not approved by the voters. The Legislature's original plan to sell \$10.7 billion worth of deficit bonds has already been challenged in court, on the grounds that it violates Article XVI Section 1 of the California Constitution (borrowing money without voter approval). I have read the original language in the Constitution. I think the plaintiffs have a pretty good case, even though I am not a lawyer.

On the March ballot, the teachers' lobby will be asking you to vote for a \$12.3 billion school bond (Proposition 55). While this general obligation bond will not trigger an automatic tax increase, it will require \$823 million (legislative analyst's estimate) each year for 30 years to repay principal and interest. The Legislature cannot balance the budget based on existing spending commitments and revenue sources, so things would

only get worse once the school bonds were sold. Higher debt service costs would mean more health and welfare cuts, since there does not seem to be broad public support for massive tax increases. Schwarzenegger was swept into power based on his promise to cut taxes (the motor vehicle license fee), which he did.

Vote yes on the governor's bond measure (Proposition 57). Vote no on the school bond measure (Proposition 55). People with AIDS cannot afford to take a number and wait – and wait and wait – for their medication. The world will not come to an end if local school districts are asked to make do with less.

David Klug
Lafayette, California

Ex-DAP employee speaks out

I read the article entitled "Conflicting Views emerge on Desert AIDS Project allegations" by David Batterson in the January 22 issue with amusement and no small degree of concern. I am the Ian Branyon mentioned in the article.

I have to say that it became very clear to me that Paul Moore, the "Silver Partner" donor, knew even less about me than his good friend, the former executive director of the Desert AIDS Project, John Brown did. (Mr. Brown resigned last week, a day after the results of an internal investigation were turned over to the Board of Directors.)

First, John O'Brien did not hire me. I was hired by Michael Priegel to help clean up after the former director of finance, John O'Brien, also a friend of John Brown's, was terminated for allegations of embezzlement and jailed on drug charges.

Secondly, Mr. Moore has never seen the documents in question. The office of the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services and the attorney general have seen them and found them to be very interesting.

Thirdly, I have never lodged a complaint against a former employer.

Fourth, I wouldn't know Mr. Moore if I passed him on the street, yet he speaks about my employment history as though he knows a great deal about me and we are well-acquainted. Ironically, if my position had not been eliminated under questionable circumstances, I would have been employed at the Desert AIDS Project for well over two years now. And it is apparent that Mr. Moore does not know me well enough to know that I have AIDS, that I am on disability, and that I work as my illness permits. Before I became disabled, I worked for nearly 10 years with my former employer. That hardly makes me a job-hopper.

And lastly, he berates Channel 2 for not investigating my complaints before airing the allegations. In truth, they delayed the story for many weeks verifying sources before choosing an air date.

Ian Branyon
Palm Springs, California

Time for that STD checkup

The San Francisco Department of Public Health encourages everyone who is sexually active to have regular STD checkups either at a local health clinic or through their primary medical provider. Getting tested will allow you to know the status of your own sexual health. With this information, you will be able to discuss sexual health issues with your sex partners and your health care providers.

As part of our efforts to increase awareness in the gay, bi, and MSM communities, STD Prevention and Control Services has been conducting STD testing in bars, sex clubs, and at other events. Many might be aware of the Healthy Penis campaign, created in 2002, which promotes sexual health and encourages individuals to get tested for syphilis. The different advertisements created in this concept may have made you laugh, especially at the sight of a 7-foot penis or large syphilis sore wandering throughout the city. However, this is just a small part of our efforts to raise the consciousness of ongoing sexual health in the community.

Community support will continue to be a key factor in combating the current syphilis epidemic and reducing the rates of other sexually transmitted diseases in our city. Because of this, we are working with an array of community members to develop innovative strategies addressing the importance of regular testing and encouraging communication between individuals and both their sexual partners and health care providers.

In an effort to make testing more accessible, we have set up an online syphilis testing Web site (www.stdtest.org) where you can print out a lab slip and visit a local Unilab to get your blood drawn, all free of charge. There are also many neighborhood health clinics, including City Clinic, if you are interested in getting a complete STD checkup. For a list of these clinics and much more information, visit www.healthypenis2004.org.

Nathaniel Birjukow
STD Prevention & Control, Community Based Services
San Francisco Department of Public Health

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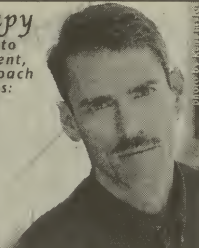
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Leveling the playing field

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

While the battleground in the larger LGBT rights battle seems to be around marriage and the military, the latest frontier in transgender rights seems to be within the world of sports.

Last November, the International Olympic Committee tentatively decided that it will allow for transsexual athletes with some restrictions. The transgender athlete would be ineligible until after a period of time post-surgery, and after some — as of yet undetermined — conditions are met. This could clear the way for some transmen

and transwomen to compete as soon as this year's summer games in Athens, Greece.

This seems a logical step following the IOC's decision in 1999 to drop the long-standing practice of chromosome tests to verify the gender of participating athletes, but is still not a full nod toward letting transgender individuals participate fully in the games.

Not everyone is pleased with this: the International Volleyball Federation, located in Acapulco, is following the IOC's lead and putting an end to gender testing its players, but it has made clear that it will not be allowing transsexuals on its teams, no matter what the conditions.

Similar views are held by the British government. The Gender Recognition Bill — affectionately known as the GeRBil — was recently amended to exclude legal recognition of transgender people in sports. This amid tabloid headlines warning of top male competitors trying to win Wimbledon by donning a skirt and playing for the women's team. A ludicrous

concern, but one that seemed to sway UK lawmakers.

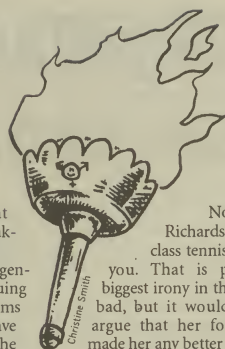
Closer to home, a transgender woman in Oregon is suing her local athletic club. It seems the club ordered her to leave after she changed in the women's locker room. Unfortunately, this woman happens to be legally female, and ordering her to leave may well violate the local civil rights ordinance that includes transgender people.

The woman in question, Lori Buckwalter, might know a thing or two about that law: she pushed hard for it three years ago, even receiving the Portland mayor's Human Rights Award for her work.

To many, much of the above may seem trivial. It may seem to you that there have not been enough transgender athletes to merit changes in the Olympics to allow transsexuals to compete, and while it may seem laughable that people would worry about non-transgender athletes trying to use such laws in order to gain an edge, you may also doubt that there are any transgender players out there who would be hurt by the GeRBil or the International Volleyball Federation's stance.

Unfortunately, there have been many transgender athletes, and it may be just these sort of practices that have kept you from hearing their names.

The most famous of all of these is probably Renee Richards. She competed on the women's tennis tour in the 1970s and — after being discovered to have been transsexual — quickly rose to a state of infamy. It may well be Richards that led to much of the reluctance to allow transsexuals to compete today.



Not that Richards was a world-class tennis player, mind you. That is probably the biggest irony in this. She wasn't bad, but it would be hard to argue that her former gender made her any better of a player.

There have been plenty of others. Michelle Dumaresq of Canada is a mountain bike racer who finished 24th in the downhill at last year's World Championships. There have been boating champions, NASCAR drivers, and even a world champion women's billiard player.

Before these, there was also Stanislaw Walasiewicz, also known as Stella Walsh. In the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, she won the 100-meter race. She also took second place in the 1936 Berlin Games. Upon her death in 1980, it was discovered that she was intersexed. To this day, the status of her medals remains up in the air.

Indeed, there have been plenty of examples of transgender people who have wanted to compete, yet have found themselves barred from doing so, out of fear that they will have some sort of "edge," courtesy of one's birth gender. Of course, no one ever asks if any female to males would be competing, and if this would somehow be unfair to the other men on the playing field.


When Renee Richards played women's tennis in the 1970s, she didn't play because she wanted to take advantage of any supposed advantage: she played because she was a woman and wanted to compete with her peers. The same is likely true of every other transsexual out there trying to make it in the world of sports.

Many out there don't seem to see that, instead relying on fear to somehow bar potential competitors from taking a place amongst their peers. It can be something as large as federations and countries barring transgender people from sports to athletic clubs ousting us from their facilities. In doing so, it prevents transgender athletes from showing their skills, and proving that while they can indeed compete, they may not be the deceptive spoilsport their detractors are claiming.

Like the issues of marriage and military service, being allowed to participate in the world of sports is a basic issue of fairness. Until we are allowed to participate, erroneous beliefs and outright bigotry will rule the day.

I can't help but applaud the IOC for using its torch to shine a little light on this issue, and I hope that someday fairness will be extended to all. ▼

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POLITICS

GOP attacks Kerry as Dean campaign falters

by Wayne Friday

With his impressive first-place wins in Iowa and New Hampshire last month and his strong showing in several states on Tuesday, February 3, Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry** has clearly become the man to beat for the Democratic presidential nomination. One who seems to have taken notice of that fact is Republican National Committee Chairman **Ed Gillespie**, who is now attacking Kerry regularly, and other White House political operatives charged with getting **George W. Bush** re-elected.

Karl Rove, Bush's top political strategist, has clearly been watching

Kerry's dramatic rise in the Democratic

Party contests and has set White House attack dogs on the Massachusetts senator as the campaign of onetime front-runner **Howard Dean** continues to falter.

For Washington Republicans there is now only one game in political play — trying to figure out what to do about the sudden emergence of Kerry as the likely Democratic nominee when the party meets in Boston this summer. With those early Iowa and New Hampshire wins and his impressive showing on Tuesday, a win for Kerry in Michigan this Saturday, followed by some likely wins Tuesday, February 10 when four more states hold primaries, then the February 17 Wisconsin primary, it could well mean that the contest among Democrats to find a presidential nominee will be over by the end of this month, leaving the "Super Tuesday" date of March 2 — when both California and New York voters select a huge batch of delegates — meaningless.

Indeed, the Kerry bandwagon appears to be on a real roll, in part because even some of Dean's original supporters feel that Kerry is best positioned to defeat Bush in November. Proof that Bush and his people now expect Kerry to be the eventual Democratic nominee was evident last week when Bush's national campaign manager, **Ken Mehlman**, went so far as accusing the Massachusetts senator and Vietnam veteran of being "weak on national security," Mehlman: "We value Senator Kerry's honorable and heroic service in Vietnam, but we question his judgment in consistently voting to cut defense and intelligence funding critical to our national security."

Another top Bush operative told the *New York Times* this week that "he [Kerry] isn't their nominee yet, but there is growing realization that he could well be if he keeps on this track," and for the second week in a row, *Newsweek* magazine Monday had Kerry leading the president by 3 percentage points in a hypothetical matchup. The Quinnipiac University poll — also released Monday — has Kerry beating Bush by 51 percent to 42 percent in a head-to-head race, the Associated Press reported.

Kerry, riding the Democratic tidal wave that has suddenly propelled him to clear front-runner

status, answered attacks this week from the Mehlman and the GOP chair by noting that Republicans "appear scared stiff," adding "that is why the White House is now sending out the attack dogs," but added that "it isn't going to work; I'm going to fight them back."

Barring an unforeseen fatal political misstep, Kerry appears on his way to becoming the Democratic nominee and for many Democrats eager to take back the White House, a John Kerry-**John Edwards** (D-North Carolina) combination would represent the North/South "dream ticket" they believe could defeat George Bush in November.

Politics and people

San Francisco Democratic Party members will

be choosing delegates to the Boston nominating convention this Sunday, February 8, and Democrats in the 8th congressional district will meet at the following places: John Kerry supporters: Sailors Union of the Pacific Hall at 450 Harrison Street at 1st Street; Howard Dean supporters: Kezar Stadium, Stanyan & Lincoln Avenue; John Edwards supporters: State Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue; **Wesley Clark** supporters: West Bay Conference Center at 1290 Fillmore Street. The location for Ohio Congressman **Dennis Kucinich** has yet to be determined. Doors open and registration begins promptly at 2 p.m. for all delegate candidates and doors will be closed at 3:15 p.m. to select the delegates. I haven't been advised as to who is running for which candidate yet, but I do know that Assemblyman **Mark Leno**, an early Kerry supporter, will be a delegate candidate for him and I certainly urge a vote for Leno Sunday. Good luck to all the party faithful working to become a delegate to the summer nominating convention in Boston. For information on locations of delegate caucuses in other parts of the Bay Area, go to www.ca-dem.org and click on "how to be a delegate," then go to "view caucus locations," to find the right congressional district location.

The *San Francisco Chronicle's* **Ken Garcia** has it right — San Francisco badly needs medium income housing (as well as housing for the homeless) and city residents should indeed vote for Proposition J on the March 2 ballot (and what's up with the blowhard **Joe O'Donoghue** being against any building of any kind in this city?).

Supervisors **Fiona Ma** and **Bevan Dufty** have apparently volunteered to return 15 percent of their \$112,000 annual salary, even though it falls well below the \$125,000 threshold that Mayor **Gavin Newsom** had suggested, voluntarily, of course. Clearly, supervisors earn every cent of their \$112,000 and if all 11 were to par-take, it would only amount to a savings to the city of around \$184,000, far short of the nearly \$10 million that could be realized if all those making more than \$125,000 were to volunteer, but don't count on it. Newsom, of course, cut his own salary by 15

percent last week.

City Treasurer **Susan Leal** announced Tuesday, February 3 that she has named openly gay **Anthony (Tony) Winnicker** to a seat on the San Francisco Elections Commission. Winnicker, former communications director for Leal's unsuccessful mayoral campaign last year, has pledged to work on increasing voter participation. He also wants to help guide the city through the implementation of ranked choice (instant runoff) voting, set to begin this November for local candidate races. Winnicker, 33, is a public relations and public affairs consultant. His partner of eight years is **Dan Bernal**, local field representative for Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco).

Governor **Arnold**

Schwarzenegger's Propositions 57 and 58 appearing on the March 2 ballot are reportedly in big trouble. The latest statewide poll reveals that 44 percent of California voters oppose the two measures with only 35 percent in approval. Proposition 57 is a \$15 billion general obligation borrowing bond to cover the state's budget; Proposition 58 is a balanced budget amendment to the state Constitution.

And about all those closeted Green Party people running for seats on the Democratic County Central Committee on March 2 — it lends real credence to state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) and Representative **Nancy Pelosi's** (D-San Francisco) idea of a "loyalty pledge" that asks candidates to pledge to yank the Democratic Party charter from political clubs that publicly endorse candidates from other parties. Good idea. I mean, if the president of the Milk Club (loaded with closeted Green Party sympathizers) who led the charge to endorse Green Party candidate **Matt Gonzalez** over a registered Democrat (oh, sure, I know it was a "non-partisan" election) wants to be honest with the voters, let him run in the Green Party primary for a seat on its central committee.

California Republicans, hoping to unseat Senator **Barbara Boxer** in November, are already on a self-destructive course. Governor **Schwarzenegger** annoyed the other GOP candidates by his endorsement of former Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, a man with lots of name identification, but no campaign funds, and last week **Toni Casey**, a candidate with little name recognition but reportedly plenty of money, blasted President Bush's immigration plan. The former Los Altos Hills mayor called Bush's proposal for a three-year temporary worker system "fatally flawed — a plan that will do nothing to stem the tide of illegal immigration." Boxer, a two-term senator from Marin County, has long been a favorite but elusive target for California Republicans. In previous elections, although polls always showed her highly vulnerable, Boxer has managed to fend off opponents by painting them as conservative extremists on such issues as gay rights, gun control, and abortion. This time, two moderate women are among those seeking the GOP nomination: Casey and former U.S. Treasurer **Rosario Marin**.

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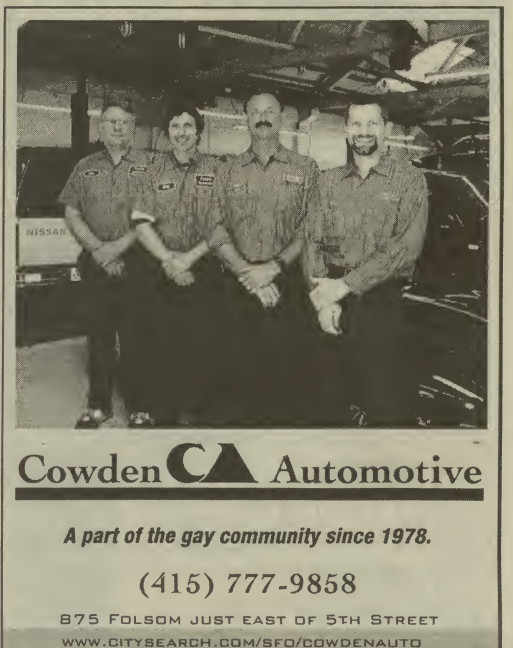
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Jim Hedges

City hosts forum on domestic partner rights

by Matthew S. Bajko

Domestic partners or same-sex couples thinking of entering into a domestic partnership are invited to attend a city-sponsored forum to learn about new benefits the state and city will be offering to people in such relationships.

The Human Rights Commission and City Assessor Mabel Teng are co-sponsoring the free informa-

tional panel which will outline the new rights DPs will receive under AB205, the sweeping domestic partners bill passed last year and set to become law on January 1, 2005.

Representatives from Teng's office will also discuss new property rights granted by both the city and the state Board of Equalization. Lesbian and gay couples who own property together or are considering purchasing property are urged to attend.

The panel will include Ora

Prochovnick, a professor at New College of Law; Craig Dzeidic, tax attorney with the city assessor's office; Carole Ruwart, a tax attorney with the state tax board; and Frederick Hertz, an author of the Nolo Press legal guide for lesbian and gay couples.

The panel will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, February 12 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. To make a reservation call the HRC at (415) 252-2500. ▼

Cirque du Soleil

◀ page 1

ic Bell Park for several weeks last November and December, prompting the agency to launch its own probe), company officials have learned a great deal more about HIV transmission issues. She also told another California newspaper that the EEOC ruling "demonstrated to us that the risks [posed by Cusick's HIV status] are minimal, so we feel confident that safety can be ensured."

Many medical experts say that there is minimal risk that an acrobat infected with HIV would pass the virus to another performer.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed the EEOC complaint on behalf of Cusick last July, called the EEOC's findings "a major development." The legal advocacy group said it could not comment on Cirque du Soleil's latest offer to rehire Cusick because the company has yet to speak directly with Cusick's attorney at Lambda Legal.

Cusick could not be reached

for comment. He did tell the Associated Press that he was pleased the EEOC upheld his discrimination complaint.

"The federal government has looked very carefully at Cirque du Soleil's actions, and its investigation confirmed there is evidence that Cirque engaged in unlawful discrimination," said Hayley Gorenberg, director of Lambda Legal's AIDS Project. Gorenberg explained that EEOC investigations don't reach beyond determining whether there's "cause to believe" an employer discriminated.

"This is the most serious determination the government can reach at this level. It's a very serious finding based on months of investigation," Gorenberg added.

Lambda Legal and Cirque have both indicated a willingness to try and resolve the matter in mediation before it reaches court. Cirque du Soleil's Menard said the company expects to enter into mediation with the EEOC soon. If that is successful and Cusick accepts a job position, his training could begin right away, Menard said, adding that training would probably take four to eight weeks. She did not

specify which Cirque du Soleil show Cusick is being considered for; previously he had an employment contract for the company's *Mystere* show in Las Vegas.

Before the EEOC finding was announced, Cirque du Soleil had offered employment to Cusick, only to later explain that he could not have performance-based positions because of his HIV status, according to Gorenberg.

"While this is nothing new from Cirque, we're looking forward to serious discussions now that the federal government has called Cirque to the table," Gorenberg said, referring to the company's latest job offer announcement. "These conversations will include a focus on Cirque company-wide policies and practices."

Cusick, 32, voluntarily disclosed his health condition to Cirque du Soleil officials and Lambda Legal maintains he was cleared by Cirque du Soleil's own doctor for "full participation at Cirque."

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Court rulings in Florida, Kansas set back gay rights

by Bob Roehr

Lower courts are resisting the broad victory toward equality that the U.S. Supreme Court gave gays last June in striking down state sodomy laws. A pair of decisions last week on cases in Florida and Kansas suggests that solidifying that victory is not assured, it will require constant diligence, and setbacks are likely.

Florida is the only state that has enacted an outright ban on gays and lesbians adopting, though it does allow them to serve as guardians and foster parents. The law has withstood several challenges.

But after the Supreme Court struck down the last remaining state sodomy laws in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision last June, hopes were riding on an appeal of the *Lofton* case, the latest one to take on the law. Rosie O'Donnell had used her prestige to help bring media attention to the issue of gay couples taking in and providing nurturing homes for kids that no one else wanted.

Lofton challenged the Florida ban on constitutional grounds, charging that the law violates the plaintiffs' constitutional rights to due process, privacy, and equal protection. It was backed by the nation's leading child welfare and psychological organizations.

Their hopes were dashed on January 29 when a three-member panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, sitting in Atlanta, ruled that the law is valid.

Rather than rely upon the *Lawrence* decision, the panel seemed to take its lead from the minority screed penned by Justice Antonin Scalia in that case. It took the majority of the Supreme Court to task for an opinion of "sweeping generality" that failed to apply "strict scrutiny, the proper standard when fundamental rights are implicated."

The court said the question of how children fare in homosexual households was controversial. They balanced the wide range of professional associations supporting the plaintiffs with the writing of the thoroughly discredited homophobic Paul Cameron.

"We are deeply disappointed by the court's decision," said Matt Coles, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. The ACLU led the legal fight. The parties seem likely to appeal the decision, though the formal decision will not be made immediately. One question is whether to ask for an en banc review by the entire circuit or to appeal it directly to the Supreme Court.

"If a single person can adopt in Florida, if gay people can be foster parents and legal guardians, and if there are thousands of children languishing in foster care, there



ACLU's Matt Coles

can be no justification for Florida's ban on gay adoptions other than impermissible prejudice and hostility toward gay people," said Howard Simon, executive director of the ACLU of Florida.

"The judges in this case didn't just rule against gay dads and lesbian moms," said Aimee Gelnow, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition, "they ruled against thousands and thousands of Florida children who need stable and loving homes."

"What a sad day for all Americans," said O'Donnell. "The struggle for civil rights continues. It is my hope this case will be heard by the Supreme Court, where this absurd discriminatory decision will be reversed."

"This ruling places a higher premium on antiquated and discriminatory assumptions about gay and lesbian people than on the best interests of the state's children and families," said Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

In San Francisco, Rocky Morrison, executive director of Our Family Coalition, also expressed sadness at the ruling. "We know first hand that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people make loving, nurturing, and responsible parents," Morrison said in a statement. "Most LGBT people have to work very hard to become parents; it is a joy and responsibility that we take very seriously."

Legal experts across the ideological spectrum agree that the *Lawrence* decision was unusual in the sweeping breadth of its language and in not being firmly rooted in traditional legal classifications. So the fact that lower courts are interpreting the decision in different ways is not surprising.

New York University law professor Arthur Leonard wrote on the gaylaw listserv, "If we want to be able to use *Lawrence* (and *Romer*) [the 1996 Colorado Amendment 2 decision] effectively to attack anti-gay government policies, we have to do everything we can to keep adverse appellate precedents such as *Lofton* from becoming final, precedential decisions."

As Minnesota law professor and *Bay Area Reporter* columnist Dale Carpenter said, "It's now the Supreme Court's job to clear up the confusion it has created."

Kansas

The next day, Friday, January 30, a Kansas state court of appeals upheld a state law that punishes gays more harshly than straights for having sex with minors.

In 2000, then-18-year-old Matthew Limon performed oral sex on a 14-year-old resident of a group home for the developmentally disabled where they both lived.

Had the encounter been between a heterosexual couple of the same ages, under the state's "Romeo and Juliet" law, Limon would have been subject to a maximum 15-month sentence. But same-sex encounters were excluded from that law and Limon was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

In appealing the case, the ACLU argued that the differing sentences represented unconstitutional discrimination against gays. It cited the *Lawrence* decision, which struck down state sodomy laws prohibiting consensual sex between adults, including the one in Kansas.

But Judge Henry W. Green Jr., writing for the two member majority, said the law was reasonable in treating gay sex differently because doing so might reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases; encourage "traditional sexual mores;" and promote procreation and marriage.

Justice Joseph Pierron Jr. dissented from the view of his two colleagues. "The courts have been given a duty to be the final protectors of our ideal of equality under the law. This blatantly discriminatory sentencing provision does not live up to American standards of equal justice."

"The court's reasons for approving this law are absurd," said Tamara Lange, Limon's attorney from the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "All young people should be entitled to protection from sexually transmitted diseases, and punishing kids more harshly 'protects' no one. The Supreme Court made it very clear that 'traditional sexual mores' are no longer a legitimate rationale for discriminating against gay people."

Dick Kuttrenbach, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri said, "The court's opinion in this case defies comprehension, and we intend to seek an appeal." ▼



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Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

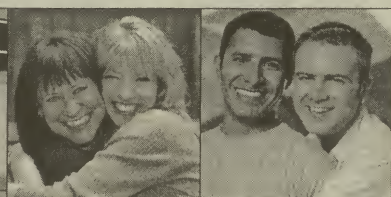
Both describe themselves as pro-choice, although Casey opposes abortion during later stages of pregnancy. Look for Jones to become the GOP Senate nominee after March 2 and for Boxer to be comfortably re-elected in November.

City Hall sources say that a couple of incumbent supes could

be in real trouble this November, but that newly-appointed Supervisor **Michela Alioto-Pier** (District 2) is likely to easily win a full term. **Janet Reilly**, the wife of onetime political consultant **Clint Reilly**, was reportedly also on Mayor Newsom's "short list" for the appointment, but Ms. Reilly is said to be good friends with Alioto-Pier and therefore likely will not challenge her for the seat this fall.

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9/02



Kirsten Boyd, Joey Cain, and Mark Sanchez chair a community meeting about a memorial to Harvey Milk.

Harvey Milk memorial committee launched

Group hopes to jump-start fundraising and design of project

by Zak Szymanski

Interested individuals and representatives from community groups and public offices met

Monday, February 2 in the LGBT Community Center to form temporary working committees to make a memorial for the late Supervisor Harvey Milk a reality.

Spearheaded by the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, the Milk memorial committee is an effort to breathe new life into what has become known as the proposed "Milk bust" at City Hall, although organizers have noted that the original board resolution did not specify that the memorial would necessarily be a bust, but rather, a permanent marker on city property.

Monday's meeting set up three smaller committees—fundraising, design, and publicity/outreach—whose goals include tapping the larger community for input through public meetings before any major decisions are made.

"The big public meeting is still to come," said Joey Cain, Pride president and one of the moderators of Monday's meeting. "This one just lays the groundwork."

Agreed upon immediate goals include researching the cost and regulations of public property installations; determining whether to move the donation fund to a fiscal sponsor, such as Pride, so that donations can be tax deductible and kept under one roof; deciding whether bigger donors or grants should be sought as resources; and reaching out to all those influenced by Milk, including those who live outside of San Francisco.

Other considerations include whether to delay larger community meetings until after the March elections, so that politicians as

well as groups like the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club can designate more time and energy to the project; and how to attract more diversity to the project, including ideas from women in the LGBT community.

The working committee has decided to operate on a timeline of two to three years from conception to completion and installation of the Milk memorial, with publicity and fundraising efforts in place by this year's Pride celebration over the weekend of June 26-27.

Years in the making

Gonzalez first drafted a resolution calling for community donations and city involvement in creating a Milk memorial back in 2002, according to Larry-Bob Roberts, Gonzalez's former aide, who attended Monday's meeting.

When momentum stalled, Gonzalez announced the creation of an account at the city controller's office that would accept and keep donations for the project. The announcement was made at a press conference in January 2003 and spurred a handful of donations over the next few months totaling just over \$3,000.

It has been estimated that typical memorials such as the busts of former mayors in City Hall can cost up to \$100,000.

Last November, the *Bay Area Reporter* attempted to track the Milk memorial's progress. Gonzalez, who was in the midst of his mayoral campaign, was not easily reachable, although aides told the *B.A.R.* that he had placed recent

page <None> ►

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The BJE administers this financial aid program on behalf of the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund and Albert and Janet Schultz Supporting Foundation. Financial assistance for West Bay families comes from the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund and the Albert and Janet Schultz Foundation. Financial assistance for East Bay families comes from the Bernard and Esther Adler Hurwitz Summer Campership Fund, the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, and the Federation's Family of Funds - Summer Camp Scholarships Fund.



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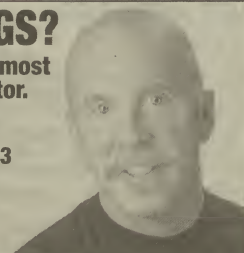
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January 2004

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(ritonavir oral solution)

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with NORVIR. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

Patient Information
NORVIR®
(Nor-veer)

Generic Name: ritonavir
(rit-ON-uh-veer)

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking NORVIR. Also, read it each time you get your NORVIR prescription refilled, just in case something has changed. Remember that this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor when you start this medication and at check ups.

You should remain under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR and you should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor. You should tell your doctor about any medicine you are taking or planning to take because taking NORVIR with some medications can result in serious or life-threatening problems.

Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about NORVIR. Your doctor or pharmacist can also give you more information about NORVIR.

What is NORVIR and how does it work?

NORVIR is in a class of medicines called the HIV protease (PRO-tease) inhibitors. NORVIR is used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. NORVIR is for adults and for children age 2 years and older. HIV infection leads to the destruction of CD₄ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD₄ (T) cells have been destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

NORVIR blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. NORVIR reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of CD₄ (T) cells. Patients who took NORVIR in clinical studies had significant reductions in both death and AIDS defining diseases; however NORVIR may not have these effects in all patients.

Does NORVIR cure HIV or AIDS?

NORVIR does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of NORVIR are not known at this time. People taking NORVIR may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does NORVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

NORVIR does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take NORVIR?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- It is very important that you take NORVIR every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it.
- The usual dose for adults is six 100 mg capsules or 7.5 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- The dosing of NORVIR may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Children from 2 to 16 years of age can also take NORVIR. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's height and weight.
- Take NORVIR with food if possible.
- NORVIR Oral Solution is peppermint/caramel flavored. You can take it alone, or improve the taste by mixing it with 8 ounces of chocolate milk, Ensure®, or Advera®. NORVIR Oral Solution should be taken within 1 hour if mixed with these items. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about other ways to improve the taste of NORVIR Oral Solution.
- Do not change or stop taking NORVIR without first talking with your health care provider.
- When your NORVIR supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to NORVIR and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give NORVIR to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of NORVIR?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of NORVIR, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much NORVIR?

If you think that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, NORVIR should be kept out of the reach of young children. NORVIR liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of NORVIR, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take NORVIR?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether NORVIR is right for you.

- Do not take NORVIR if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take NORVIR, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with NORVIR, please read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

- Do not take NORVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to NORVIR or any of its ingredients.

Can I take NORVIR with other medications?

NORVIR may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR.

- Do not take the following medicines with NORVIR because they can cause serious or life-threatening problems such as irregular heartbeat, breathing difficulties or excessive sleepiness could occur:

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Ergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine, and dihydroergotamine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, and others
Halcion® (triazolam)
Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Quinidine, also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quindex®, and others
Rythmol® (propafenone)
Seldane® (terfenadine)
Tambocor® (flecainide)
Vasacor® (bepridil)
Versed® (midazolam)

- Do not take NORVIR with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease NORVIR levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to NORVIR or cross-resistance to other antiretroviral medicines.

- Do not take NORVIR with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between NORVIR and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with NORVIR.

Medicines that may require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking NORVIR. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

- The following medicines require dose reduction if taken with NORVIR:

If you are taking Viagra® (sildenafil), your doctor may lower your dose of Viagra.

Before you take Viagra with NORVIR, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and NORVIR together, you may be at risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should get medical help immediately to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking Oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, your doctor should increase the dose or you should use a different type of contraception since NORVIR may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

Other Special Considerations:

NORVIR oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx) and NORVIR: Didanosine and NORVIR should be separated by at least 2.5 hours.

- Rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®, may reduce blood levels of NORVIR. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking rifampin.

What are the possible side effects of NORVIR?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects are: feeling weak/tired, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, changes in taste, tingling feeling or numbness in hands or feet or around the lips, headache, and dizziness.

- Blood tests in patients taking NORVIR may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and

Hepatitis C who take NORVIR may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including rare cases of death have occurred in patients taking NORVIR. It is unclear if NORVIR caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking NORVIR can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis) which may cause death. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- Allergic reactions ranging from mild to severe have occurred in patients taking NORVIR.

There have been other side effects noted in patients receiving NORVIR; however, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or persistent symptoms to your doctor immediately.

What should I tell my doctor before taking NORVIR?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of NORVIR on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking NORVIR. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking NORVIR.

- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

- If you have hemophilia: Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B.

How do I store NORVIR?

- Keep NORVIR and all other medicines out of the reach of children.

- Store NORVIR Oral Solution at room temperature. Do not refrigerate NORVIR Oral Solution. Avoid exposing NORVIR Oral Solution to excessive heat or cold.

- Refrigeration of NORVIR soft gelatin capsules by the patient is recommended, but not required if used within 30 days and stored below 77°F (25°C). Avoid exposing NORVIR soft gelatin capsules to excessive heat or cold.

- Store NORVIR soft gelatin capsules and NORVIR Oral Solution in the original container.

- Shake NORVIR Oral Solution well before each use.

- Use NORVIR Oral Solution by the expiration date on the bottle. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw away any medicine, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Desert AIDS Project director resigns

by David Batterson

John Brown has resigned his post as executive director of Desert AIDS Project in Palm Springs, California. In a joint statement issued last week by Brown and DAP Board President Dr. Andrew Silver, Brown stated: "I am very proud of my time here with DAP but feel it is time to move on. I have had other opportunities presented to me, and feel this is the time to take this step in my career."

Brown was placed on administrative leave last month and an investigation was launched amid allegations of misconduct regarding funds and operations. Warner Engdahl, a former board president, has assumed the interim position of deputy executive director.

Silver's statement said: "John has been a tremendous asset to DAP for over five years, and his leadership has been a key to the expansion of the agency's services and its overall growth."

DAP will now conduct an extensive executive search to replace Brown. "We will find the best possible candidate to fill John's position," said Silver. "While the search goes on all client services, fundraising, and other projects will continue to move forward. Our board is committed to the continued success of DAP and the health of our clients."

Andrew Green, vice president of the board, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the board is now acting as the executive director until a new executive director is hired. Green said that due to the heavy responsibilities of the position, "we are not sure if one person can do it."

DAP's board of directors previously announced January 13 that it launched an independent investigation into allegations regarding its internal operations. DAP retained the services of Roberts & Associates, employment and labor attorneys. DAP reported the Roberts investigation has been completed, and that it "has not shown misuse of funds." But "it did reveal management and operational issues, some of which are consistent with organizations that have experienced rapid growth."

DAP added that "an assessment of the organizational structure of the agency, including management and staffing has been ordered, and appropriate changes will be implemented in a timely manner."

Green said the organization has restructured "every two to three years" as the agency has grown. He stressed DAP has been recognized for "our level of leadership."

Engdahl, former board president, assumed the interim position of deputy executive director last month. DAP is still aiming to fill the deputy position permanently, Silver said.

The allegations of misconduct by Brown were brought forth by former DAP employee Ian Branyon. He worked in an accounting position at DAP from February 2001 to May 2003. Branyon said he had "told board President Andy Silver about the problems two years ago. Nothing was done about it."

Palm Springs resident Cleve Jones, founder of the Names Project, told the *B.A.R.* that Brown "had a very clear vision about the direction of DAP. He's a man of great compassion and integrity,

and I'm sorry to see him go."

Jones added he particularly applauds Brown's "efforts to secure housing for PWAs. The whole situation is unfortunate," he said, "but it was handled by the board in the best way possible."

Brown's longtime friend and a major donor to DAP, Paul Moore, told the *B.A.R.*: "It's too bad that groundless accusations from questionable and immoral people could end the solid work of a man of impeccable character." Moore added that "Brown's reputation is intact. DAP is the loser in this situation."

Asked to comment on Moore's statement, Branyon said in an e-mail: "Mr. Moore's response is characteristic of the elitism that has led the Desert AIDS Project so far from its mission statement. The 'groundless accusations' came not just from two or three people, but from 90 percent of the staff, previous employees, volunteers, and clients once the internal investiga-

tion was opened and it was safe to speak without the threat of termination hanging overhead. Once again, Mr. Moore maligns the characters of people whom he has never met, in a situation about which he obviously knows little, other than what is told to him at cocktail parties and 'Silver Donor' events."

The 10th Annual Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards Gala, a sold-out event, takes place February 7 at Palm Springs Convention Center. Brown will attend. This year marks the 20th anniversary of DAP in the Coachella Valley. DAP provides services for people living with HIV/AIDS to manage their HIV disease. DAP offers primary medical care through the Wells Fargo HIV Health Center. The group provides education and prevention services for schools, civic organizations, businesses, churches and health organizations. Anonymous HIV testing is also provided. ▼

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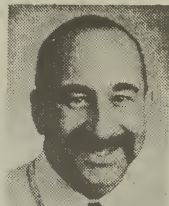
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AIDS research

◀ page 1

Bush administration for policies that result in industry shipping jobs overseas. What are they going to say when money the federal government directly spends on research – and the patient care associated with that research – is shipped overseas?

Care conundrum

"Even though our mission is to help end the epidemic, our way of doing that is through research. We don't do care, or at least we don't say we do," DAIDS deputy director Jonathan Kagan told the January 26 meeting of the ARAC. Federal law precludes the NIH from providing care; it can only do so within the context of research.

But patients volunteer to participate in clinical trials for a variety of reasons. For many PWAs, the most important reason is that it may be the only way for them to get access to care.

The conundrum of Kagan's honesty in saying that NIH does not discuss the care that it provides through research has inhibited discussion of the impact that network reorganization will have on the provision of care to PWAs – so much so that the issue has not even come up at any of the multiple public meetings that have discussed network reorganization over the last six months.

"We are trying to do everything, everywhere in the world, and yet, we were already stretched thin when we were trying to manage domestic HIV. Now the same people are basically trying to extend themselves to manage things internationally," Henry Masur said at the September

ARAC meeting. As director of the NIH Clinical Center he is an ex-officio member of ARAC.

"It just seems to me that this is much to diffuse and we have to face the fact that we can't do all of these things with the people and the resources that we have," Masur added.

The Adult Clinical Trials Group is the largest of the treatment trials networks. Over time its focus has shifted from "is drug A better than drug B" to more intense studies trying to figure out how best to use the increasing number of therapeutic options – a complex matrix of what combinations and in what orders – and also in identifying biological markers that give an early indication if a patient is vulnerable to a toxicity, lipodystrophy, or another problem that may be associated with a particular drug.

Robert "Chip" Schooley headed up the ACTG executive committee for many years and now is focusing on international research. With new classes of drugs like integrase inhibitors and entry inhibitors coming along, he believes, "We'll get a much faster answer learning how to use them if we have the tools in place when they come along."

He added, "The international program is an important component, but at the same time, it won't be effective if we don't have the domestic program upon which to build it."

Driving forces

Two things are driving the international move. One is the commitment to implement treatment in the developing world and the other is the buildup to phase III trials for AIDS vaccines and microbicides.

A drug trial generally requires a few hundred patients to determine efficacy, while some complex trials comparing multiple drug regimens or treatment strategies need a few thousand patients.

In contrast, the Thai vaccine trial now under way is enrolling 16,000 participants. Most future vaccine and microbicide trials will be of a similar or larger scale.

DAIDS director Tramont fears that an early vaccine trial will show a low 10-20 percent level of protection. It won't be enough to

begin to vaccinate the population at large, but it may be sufficient to require that it replace the placebo used in current trials.

That means even bigger and longer trials for follow-up vaccine candidates in order to detect modest improvements in protection. And the cost of those trials could go up exponentially. Vaccine trials hold the potential to eat up the entire AIDS research budget.

Nobody is questioning the need for these international programs; the issue is how to pay for them. Must that be at the expense of domestic programs?

A way out

The trials network restructuring is occurring through administrative channels where senior NIAID officials are doing the best job they can to identify and fund the highest research priorities within the context of the budget limitations they are given.

Two ways out of the crisis and its implications for AIDS research and care in the U.S. are to add more money to the mix, or move the decision-making to another level where factors other than the scientific research agenda can be considered. Congress controls the purse strings and can design changes that protect patients and researchers from harm.

The entire NIH budget for AIDS research this year is about \$2.8 billion. NIAID gets slightly less than half of that but it has funded the vaccine research effort virtually by itself. Perhaps other institutes should contribute more toward that effort, though that might take money away from other research such as AIDS-related mental health issues or coinfections such as hepatitis C.

Another option would be to fund much of the expanded international HIV research agenda through other sources, rather than take it away from domestic research and the care that it supports. President Bush's international AIDS initiative would be a logical place to look.

Concern also should be paid to preserving the research capacity and accompanying provision of care that has taken so long to establish at major research centers in the U.S. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Ford, Mary Jane "Jeri"



Ford, Mary Jane "Jeri" — Passed away on January 12, 2004 at the age of 84. Born in Ohio, Jeri moved to San Francisco after serving in the Marine Corps during World War II. She was stationed in Honolulu during the War where supplies were scarce and had to be imported. There was no place for the Women Marines to go for hair cuts and styling, so Jeri designed and set up a make-shift beauty salon. Some of the equipment she invented is now in the Smithsonian Institute. Honorably discharged from the Marines she accepted a position with Elizabeth Arden who operated beauty shops for the cruise lines. Miss Arden was so pleased with her strong work ethic that she contracted her to assist with the opening of her popular Salon in San Francisco.

After many happy years at the Arden Salon, she developed an eye-sight problem and had to give up the career she loved. Her many devoted patrons and friends were devastated to find that there was no cure of her eye sight-loss.

She did not let her handicap hinder her full life. Jeri enrolled at San Francisco State College and graduated with her B.A. degree. She loved the theatre and the arts and with the generosity of her dear friend Milan Holdorf, she enjoyed the annual theatre tours to New York City. For 13 consecutive years, with her escort Don Rogers, she celebrated New Year's Eve at the Flamingo Reno Hilton Hotel and was always the Queen of the Ball. The best way to describe her is that she truly believed that life is a cabaret and she got the most and best out of it. She was well known and admired for her unique style and elegance. She was often mentioned in the *Chronicle's* columns "Who's Who" by Frances Mofat and Herb Caen for her artwork and fun-loving lifestyle.

Survived by her sister, June Nagel and niece, Susan Sauer (Doug) of Cincinnati, Ohio; niece, Sandy Smith (Bruce) of Boston, Massachusetts; and many other nephews and nieces. She will be greatly missed but cherished in the hearts of her many friends in SF and worldwide. At Jeri's request, no services will be held.

Mark Jenkins 1964 — 2003



Northridge and settled in San Francisco in the early 1990s.

After working for several information technology firms, Mark joined UCSF Information Technology Service (ITS) in 1994. He first worked at the medical center then moved to campus administration where he ascended through the ranks to the position of UCSF ITS Director of Enterprise Network Services. Colleagues remember Mark for his abundant energy, keen intellect, consummate professional competence, dedication and his commitment to UCSF. He was instrumental in the development of the network infrastructure for the Mission Bay campus. A Memorial Service was held for him on Nov. 19 at UCSF Mission Bay, Gen-

tech Hall Auditorium.

Mark Jenkins left UCSF in 2002. Although Mark was brilliant and exceedingly well qualified, academic institutions are inclined to promote those employees with degrees and pass over those without. An abundance of information technology job seekers with 4-year college degrees became available following the dot-com bust.

Mark started his own business in 2002; dedicated to better nutrition, exercise and fitness. He developed and ran the business through his website www.sweatyurbanjock.com. The site, built around the theme "Get in Shape, Now" is still active and shows recent digital images of Mark.

In April of 2002 Mark also assumed care for his mother who was bed ridden with severe memory loss. Mark took his mother back to Phoenix in the spring of 2003 to care for her. His mother, Carrie Mae Jenkins passed away on May 20, 2003. The last entries in Mark's on-line fitness journal were posted three weeks before his mother's death. Mark is survived by his father, Tommie Jenkins and several cousins in Arizona and California.

In addition to his many talents, his keen sense of humor was cherished by his friends and colleagues. In some ways Mark was a perfectionist, both on the job and off. He spent many hours in the gym perfecting his body and helping others strive to do the same. Being his guest for dinner was a culinary treat because he was an accomplished chef.

Mark read profusely and loved to engage friends in philosophical discussions that would often turn to the latest conspiracy theory. Besides being an avid reader, Mark was also an accomplished pianist. Mark Jenkins will forever have a place in the hearts of those whose life he touched and he will be greatly missed by the many people who loved him.

Dennis W. McDermott June 15, 1949 — January 15, 2004

Originally from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, Dennis worked in Dallas before escaping to the cool climes of the San Francisco Bay Area in 1997. He finally settled on Nob Hill after enjoying Diamond Heights' 'suburban' feel for almost four years. Dennis started his San Francisco hospitality industry career at The Ritz Carlton before moving to the Ramada (Mark Twain) Hotel. He last worked for, and loved being with his boss, Helen, colleagues and guests at Powell Place.

Thinking he was in the clear after surviving prostate cancer, he later bravely fought, though succumbed to, a brain tumor. His untimely demise was only six weeks after returning to family (parents Dorothy & Bernard and brother David) for comfort and support, in Pennsylvania.

Dennis really enjoyed his work, loved to laugh, and play with the dogs he doted on, who pranced into his life: Rebel, a yorkie; Yang, the shih tzu clown; and adorable Lucy & Gemme, French bulldogs. He savored much — had many good times with friends such as Jonathan, co-workers Carolyn and Tom, and the man he had dated, Rick.

For more info, send a note to Jonathan at yangzpa@sbcglobal.net.

Peter Potaski



Peter Potaski, aka "Mary Tie Me More," left us to join his grandparents, his brother John, and the man he loved, Michel Coim, on January 10, 2004, at the age of forty-four.

He left us with the memory of his impish smile, wicked sense of humor and the joy of having been enveloped in his irrepressible love of the experience of truly experiencing yourself.

Some of those he left with those memories include his parents Lou and Loretta, brother Michael, sisters Fran and Barbara, brother-in-law Ron and his pussy Mr. Hymie. His many friends, especially Kim Major and Gert McMullen, will miss him terribly.

Local services to be announced. Please contact Kim Major at 415-841-8843.

Wharton, Hugh Davis, III, Esq.

"Dave" died on January 9, 2004 in Santa Rosa, at rest with God. He is survived by his parents, Hugh & Helen, and three adult children: Jennifer, Gregory and Michael. His friends and extended family at Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco, as well as the gay community will dearly miss him.

Born in Buffalo, New York, June 1, 1940, Dave graduated from Princeton University in 1961 and Yale Law School in 1964. He spent many years in public service including as Assistant Attorney General of Alaska, City Attorney of Livermore, Counsel to the Department of Energy, and as a hearing officer and municipal judge pro tem for the City and County of San Francisco.

Following his departure from government in 1980 Dave continued his public service by serving as legal counsel for a number of nonprofit corporations including the Hunger Project and BAIME (Bay Area Institute for Motorcyclist Education), and later was instrumental in starting a number of nonprofit organizations in the Gay community including PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support).

Dave worked with the Golden Gate Business Association and Gay Fathers among other groups. His latest interest was with the Gay Games, serving not only on the Board but also as their legal counsel. Pursuing his life-long passion for politics, Dave ran for San Francisco Supervisor in '82 and '84 (endorsed by the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*) and Municipal Judge in '87. After leaving the practice of law Dave found a new passion in teaching. He spent most of his last three years as a Professor of English and Business at Assumption University in Thailand.

A memorial and celebration of Dave's life will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 11:00 am at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush St., in SF. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society or the charity of your choice.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

and we'll work with Dufty's office to make something happen."

Monday's meeting ended on a similarly positive note, with participants optimistic that funds could be raised and that planning is moving forward.

Meanwhile, those interested in getting involved with the memorial project should contact Cain at board_president@sfpdridge.org, or by calling (415) 336-4070. Individual and corporate donations can still be sent to the Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial Fund, Office of the Controller, City Hall, Room 300, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102. Checks should be made payable to the city and county of San Francisco and should note that the donation is toward the Milk memorial. ▼

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Milk memorial

◀ page 12

phone calls about jump-starting the fundraising drive. (Since that article, another \$460 was raised, according to the controller's office.) Groups that were reportedly tapped to help with the Milk memorial were also busy with elections, and privately, some activists said that relations would need to be mended between Gonzalez and the Milk Club before the project partnership could resume (the Milk Club endorsed Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor). Likewise, the Lavender Greens, the local LGBT Green Party group, had planned to help raise funds for the memorial bust, but be-

tween the recall election and Gonzalez's mayoral run, did not have the time to donate to the project.

New beginning

That has all changed, as Monday's meeting included representatives from Gonzalez's office, the Milk Club, and the Lavender Greens, as well as Supervisor Bevan Dufty's office, the office of Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, and longtime LGBT community members and friends of Milk. Ammiano, who was delayed at City Hall and could not attend, told the *B.A.R.* that he has since been in contact with the working group and "I believe they're on the right track. I'll do whatever I need to do to help. We'll work with Gonzalez's office

Sporn to be wild

by Jim Provenzano

It's a dirty job, diving into the muck that is bred when pornography and sports collide. Regular readers know that I put my hip-wader boots on years back when casting a net to understand the realm of "sporn."

Now, corporate culture's caught up. But before we get to the Super Bowl (I warned you), first, a few less than super balls.

Tada! No

Kazuhito Tadano, the Paris Hilton of Major League Baseball, apologized again for making bad gay porno.

He just had to restate that he's not gay, despite having performed in one or more gay porn videos in 2002, before leaving college and beginning a career as a baseball player.

His odd story, which broke in

Cleveland magazine, was commented on by yours truly and several other outlets last September.

But it seems the Indians decided to beg for yet another round of press at a herding of media scribes January 27 in Ohio, one of many states rabidly banning gay marriage.

In a second go at interpreted apologies, this leftover episode of a soap opera that failed to shock fans seems to sizzle better in its second helping, despite Tadano's less than porn-worthy complexion.

Maybe the corporate media, from Associated Press to CNN and *Sports Illustrated*, just wanted to give the story a leftover stir-fry before heading on to a bigger joke, the Super Bowl.

Why else retread a sleazy baseball story in the middle of winter, other than to poke fun at it while it hibernates?

The availability of the product



Hello titty: What's more obscene, showing a boob, or being one? From left, Kazuhito Tadano, Tom Brady, Ms. Jackson and Miss Timberlake.

wasn't stated in the straight media. You have to go to gay sources to find that out.

From various connoisseurs of the subgenre of sporn, several claim to have purchased the Japanese DVD. Although hired by the Indians as a pitcher, allegedly, Tadano's also a catcher.

The line of tapes is less than hi-brow, SM-flavored, and hardly a cinematic feat. American porn enthusiasts seem confused by the hybrid subgenre; bad Asian SM celebrity sporn.

With gruff macho sportscasters like Jim Rome ruminating on the concept of being "gay for pay," perhaps the nation's got a case of queer eye pink eye.

I still can't believe the Indians traded gorgeous Brady Anderson and other players for a guy who can't even be good at being bad.

The Tadano rehash gives the right wing-controlled media another desperate shot at maligning gays without even needing a gay, while girding its Nazification of the Constitution.

Compare Tadano's tribunal to former basketball star Dr. Julius Irving's alleged homemade sex videos, currently making the underground.

Is the corporomedia giving Irving more pre-Super Bowl love, for having done what's expected of pro jocks? Irving's not playing now, nor commenting. The lack of evidence via screen captures or downloadable mpegs prevent sporn investigators from providing a comparative analysis.

Dip tip

Before getting to the breast of our story, a few side dishes.

Last week, Fabrice Santoro and Michael Lodra of France stripped down to their undies after winning the men's doubles final against Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan of the U.S. at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia. They have a promising career in soccer.

Speaking of soccer, two Cuban ex-bodyguards of David Beckham have threatened to reveal the private activities of the King of Metrossexuals.

And in the kitchen, an amusingly queer pre-Super Bowl moment: actor George Eads offering chip dip recipes on Ellen DeGeneres's talk show last week. The star of *CSI*, who's stirred rumors of his sexuality by appearing at most events with his live-in male co-star, Eads delighted in sharing microwave cooking tips with fellow Texas-born DeGeneres.

After DeGeneres mentioned being from a small town near the Texas border, Eads asked if she crossed that border when she "broke the law."

"Oh, yeah. Lotsa times," she quipped.

"Me, too. We've been on the other side of the law a lot," said Eads. "We've got a lot in common."

To which Texan law could he be referring? One recently overturned?

The mamm show

We're honing in on the titular moment. But first a brief diss of the Super Bowl commercials.

Mike Ditka hawking Levitra while tossing the football through the tire swing (get it?) served as the limp metaphor for the entire event.

Note to straight men: Honey, impotency is God's way of saying, "Get a hobby." And Bush's billion-dollar pro-heterosexuality campaign can't get it up, either.

But the headlight moment of the day, if you don't know by now, was not the chunky nearly nude male stalker, but half a nip at halftime.

Justin Timberlake punk'd Wacko's sis. Oops. Not. The single boob shot of Janet Jackson sent shockwaves all the way to the executive luxury suites and beyond, proving that America is easily duped, and undersexed.

Timberlake barely managed a desperate attempt at heterosexual behavior that FCC chief Michael Powell called "a classless, crass, and deplorable stunt."

"It's unlikely that MTV will produce another Super Bowl halftime. We were extremely disappointed by elements of the MTV-produced halftime show," Joe Browne, NFL executive vice president, said. "They were totally inconsistent with assurances our office was given about the content of the show."

Really? What were you expecting from the sister of Miss Jesus Juice only weeks before the release of her next CD?

"Janet Jackson's Super Bowl Show Promises 'Shocking Moments,'" read the headline for MTV's promos. Browne's disappointment is understandable. The mammary moment could not have been more crassly calculated and utterly stupid.

Oscar Wilde may have said there is no such thing as bad publicity, but he never had to watch *Access Hollywood*.

Manipple-ators

A shirtless Adam Vinatieri go-go dancing would have worked fine, and would have passed network standards and practices.

MTV should be given a second chance to get the other nipple, and a few acts that aren't so laughably awful, including Kid Rock (drug addict, song stealer, and jingoistic patriot) and P. whatever-his-name-is (whose athletic distinction is having upstaged thousands of other New York Marathoners to raise money for an amount he could have simply written as a check).

Of the overtly staged "wardrobe malfunction" as Timberlake called it, Jackson, all CBS affiliates – and who knows, maybe even the guy

who made Jackson's fancy nipple piercing – may be sued.

As Mazeppa, the trumpeting stripper in *Gypsy* would say, "To have no talent is not enough."

Amid the rancor over Titillation Nation, CBS refused to air MoveOn.org's winning BushIn30Seconds.com commercial. It was deemed "political."

Right before the Super Bowl, (p)resident Bush was given a live interview, yakking for nearly four minutes in sentence fragments plucked from the State of the Union speech written for him.

No mention of steroids this time. Strange, since Bush lapdog and Patriot QB Tom Brady won the game.

Folks in San Mateo, where Brady was born and raised, should be proud of their fair son, his tinted Tintin hair's default metrosexuality, and the legion of gay male fans who adore a puppet of the rightwing determined to outlaw our civil rights.

Former President George Bush Sr. was invited onto the field as the "Ambassador" to the Super Bowl; appropriate, since the entire event was a calculated PR diversion.

Poppy received live coverage of his lifer CIA self meeting the coaches and officials on the field, but no nipple peeks.

No doubt he's quite happy that the media's found yet another inane faux-sex scandal to distract us all from his son's driving the United States of America into a sewer of debt and global animosity.

Our Caligula would have said, "Thumbs up," but George "Whistle Ass" Bush (the college nickname of the former cheerleader) claimed to have gone beddy-bye at halftime.

Straight guys got a nipple peek that's become the most replayed moment in TiVo history.

Gays got a baseball sporn import they can't find, and probably don't want to watch.

Gay: The new straight

Meanwhile, back in comparatively normal San Francisco, GLBT sports groups may be gathering as a group in the Civic Center at this June's Pride festivities, where nipples of all sexes are out in the open and expected, not used as crass marketing ploys.

This Monday, February 9 at 7 p.m., most of the Bay Area sports groups have been invited to discuss a plan to consolidate their booths and marching contingents in the queer festivities.

The meeting, organized by Team San Francisco's co-chair Ross Hayduk, will be at the Bank of America building's upstairs community meeting room at 18th and Castro streets.

By reigning in costs, the group effort could make GLBT sports visibility easier for all teams and clubs.

For more info, call (415) 425-1485 or visit www.teamsf.org. ▼

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CLASSIFIEDS

Marriage issue

◀ page 1

he would support a federal constitutional amendment if "activist judges" continued to pressure states into granting gays the right to marry. His comments were directed at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court which has ordered lawmakers in that state to offer gay marriage by this spring.

"This potential amendment outlined by the president targets the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community by threatening to take away individual liberty and freedom that every American is entitled to. That is not acceptable," said Newsom in his statement. "We have fought hard to ensure that every American is entitled to equality under the law. The amendment President Bush discussed on Tuesday would promote prejudice and discrimination, which our nation has been fighting for decades. The Constitution is meant to protect Americans from discrimination, not subject us to it. This is a terrible idea and I urge the president to reconsider his position."

Stopped at SFO

McKay said next week the group will be asking Newsom for his support at a rally on the steps to City Hall before going to the clerk's office.

"Maybe it will include that they give out licenses to couples that ask," said McKay, who herself recently experienced the limitations of a domestic partnership.

"A more practical strategy is to work with our straight allies to make everything happen."

On January 30, upon returning from Thailand with her domestic partner, Davina Kotulski, McKay was stopped by U.S. Customs at San Francisco International Airport and told that she and her partner were "not a family" and would not be able to pass through U.S. Customs until they completed separate forms as singles.

In a statement following the incident, Kotulski noted that despite all the expensive legal documentation and a statewide domestic partnership registry, gay couples still cannot secure the most basic right of being able to fill out one form together as a "family" at the U.S. Customs desk.

"It was humiliating," said Kotulski, who has been with McKay for eight years. "This is more proof to me that anything less than marriage means second-class status." MECA has joined with Equality California to push for passage of Assemblyman Mark Leno's gay marriage bill. The openly gay Democrat from San Francisco is expected to introduce the measure next Thursday. If passed, it would sanction civil marriage for California same-sex couples.

Geoff Korsch, executive director of EQCA, said California's family code currently defines marriage as a contract between a man and a woman. However, he noted the state's Constitution also provides for equal protection under the law, an argument used to offer same-sex couples the same tax breaks as married couples.

"The Constitution doesn't allow for discrimination in the context of the gender of the partner. It doesn't deny lesbian or gay people equal protection under the law. Equal protection needs to be applied to everyone," he said.

Steve Weir, the openly gay

clerk-recorder for Contra Costa County, said he does not see how any clerk in the state could issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

"I am convinced under California law that as county clerk I cannot issue marriage licenses," said Weir. "San Francisco doesn't operate under different laws than say, Contra Costa."

But because San Francisco is a charter city, and the county clerk is not an elective office, Weir said he believes the mayor could dissolve the clerk's office, though said he didn't know what other entity in San Francisco could do the clerk's function.

"It wouldn't accomplish anything for you," he said. "I know it is a political move to heighten this issue and it may be an issue of going to the courts."

It is unclear what steps the city can, or will, take in granting gays marriage licenses. While the two openly gay members of the Board of Supervisors, Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammann, are both in support of gay marriage, neither believes taking rights away from others would be a productive strategy.

"A more practical strategy is to work with our straight allies to make everything happen," said Ammann, though he added, "I like the construct. It makes sense in a social justice way."

Dufty said, "It is inequitable that gays and lesbians cannot have civil marriage and we shouldn't have anything less. But I am not sure of denying others the right to marriage."

Dufty said he has heard from

several people regarding the issue and his response he said was "I didn't dismiss it nor embrace it."

"I am open to having a discussion. I try not to be dismissive of ideas, that is what representation is about—exploring and pursuing ideas, seeing what ramifications are there, and how it folds into broader strategies," added Dufty.

Both have asked City Attorney Dennis Herrera's office for advice. Ammann said he believes it is a state issue, and Dufty said he has yet to hear back from Herrera's office. City attorney spokesman Matt Dorsey did not return a call seeking comment.

McKay said she believes the issue does fall within the city's purview, and cited Ammann's 2003 resolution that declared San Francisco supports gay marriage and asked the state to repeal its discriminatory marriage laws.

"We are not opposed to marriage but opposed to marriage discrimination," said McKay. "The city and county should do everything in its power so that it doesn't implicitly endorse same-sex discrimination by refusing to hand out marriage licenses to San Francisco residents." ▼

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are offering bus rides to a pro-gay marriage rally that will take place on Valentine's Day in Sacramento. The buses will leave from Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, February 14 and return later that day. Anyone interested should reserve a seat by sending an e-mail to constancecraving@aol.com. A small fee to cover the bus cost is requested.

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION
COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 PM.

† The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

† February 19, 2004 - Street and Sidewalk permits and regulations
Department of Building Inspection and Department of Public Work staff

† NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following scheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, J. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs. Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Asthma Task Force

† The Asthma Task Force consists of a total of thirty (30) members (twenty voting, ten non-voting), 22 of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Twenty (20) of the twenty-two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors are voting members; two (2) are non-voting members.

† The purposes of the Task Force is to recommend to the Board of Supervisors legislative action and citywide strategies that would ensure the highest standard of asthma management and prevention services for all residents in the City and County of San Francisco, and to provide general advice and assistance to the Board of Supervisors with regard to funding priorities, legislative action, and city policies for the prevention and management of asthma in the City and County of San Francisco.

† Compensation: Members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

† Vacant seat 3, must be a representative of childcare coordinating/advocacy organizations and is a voting member; for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

† Vacant seat 12, must be a representative of MediCal Managed Care Insurers and is a voting member; for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

† Vacant seat 21, must be an individual who represents property interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

† Vacant seat 22, must be an individual who represents tenant interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541112

In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for Change of Name. The application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Kathryn Wells has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kathryn Wells. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: D-Rock Productions, 1261 Broderick Street #101, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Aaron Ker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272349-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nails by Wendy, 5933 Mission San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tam M. Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541129

In the Matter of the Application of Jessica Lyn Johnson for Change of Name. The application of Jessica Lyn Johnson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jessica Lyn Johnson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jess Johnson.

Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272369-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss 422 Spruce Street San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/30/03.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541139

In the Matter of the Application of John Stewart Dolan for Change of Name. The application of John Stewart Dolan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Stewart Dolan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Jayde Dolan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273137-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cleaning Services 1338 Alabama Street San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rogelio M. Estanislao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273136-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: R & G Hauling 645 Excelsior Ave. San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273096-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lino Express 474 19th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Alan Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

Request for Qualifications:

RFP #264

City and County of San Francisco

Department of Human Services

Request for Proposal # 264

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in providing support services for relative caregivers. The purpose of the services are to strengthen and stabilize relative placements, to improve relative care for children, to assess relative placements, and to support Family and Children's Services concurrent planning efforts for ER cases. Relative care families have a range of needs from crisis situations requiring immediate assistance to general support issues. Services include but are not limited to case-management, support groups, peer counseling, workshops, recreational activities, respite and transportation services.

The contract period will run from 7/1/04 to 6/30/07 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Monday, February 9, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after Monday, February 9, 2004. Go to HITTSUN.SFCA.US/PBIDS.NSF and click on the "Contracts and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents Conference will be held on, at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Johanna Gendelman at (415) 557-5162. Due date for responses is Thursday, March 11, 2004 at noon.

02/05/04 • CNS-634547 • BAY AREA REPORTER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541159

In the Matter of the Application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for Change of Name. The application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alina Vakhutinskaya has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alina Vakutin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272882-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: McGovern Consulting 2410 17th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christina P. McGovern. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272721-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frames on 3rd 2500 3rd Street San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carol Korycinski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/20/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272940-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don's Barber Shop 2272 Chestnut Street San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/21/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/21/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272995-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mad Seven Records 616 Fell Street San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Mike Aklin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/22/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273110-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lasso Recordings and T-Art Enterprises 1630 Oakdale Ave. #B San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wilhelmina Lassandra Teart. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.
JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. CNC 04541127
In the Matter of the Application of William James Ammons III for Change of Name
The application of William James Ammons III for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that William James Ammons III has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Bly Tau-Min. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272666-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: BC Design Partners 168 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114 This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed James Ellis Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/09/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272755-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Sparky's Bookkeeping 339 Bartlett St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110 This business is conducted by an individual, signed Malia Spanyol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/19/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/13/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272701-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Geary Street Bella Pizza 4124 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed John Lee Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272651-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: f. Stop Four Productions 1760 O'Farrell Street #17 San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Timothy Plummer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/09/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272433-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Upper Third Street Boutique and Market 6275 Third Street San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Evelyn Powers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272449-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Everything Baking, 2. Everything Baking, 4135 17th Street #202 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Malcom Haar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272620-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Spy Cafe 555 Beach Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jason Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272115-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: A.G. Quality Plumbing, 1019 South Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Agustín García. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/04
JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE 0272850-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Olson Design & Construction 2648 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steven K. Olson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01-16-04.
JAN. 22, 29, FEB. 5, 12, 2004

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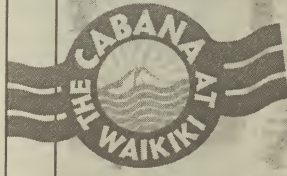
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0272864-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Aran Trucking 2208 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Frachra McCarron. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/04.
Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 524 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, Ca 94102. Type of License applied for: 47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
JAN. 22,29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273285-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Precon Services Inc. 1486 31st Ave. San Francisco CA 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Gorman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/15/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/02/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273064-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Anthroarts 350 Alabama St. #4 San Francisco CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sarah E. Murray. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/23/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273248-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fillmore Eye Wear 1490 Fillmore St. San Francisco CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nae Moon Park. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/30/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272704-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: A Beautiful Day 674 Castro St. San Francisco CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jeanine K. Reisbig. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/12/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

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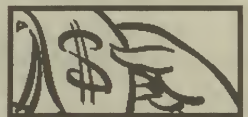
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541158

In the Matter of the Application of Steven Bruce Modarai for Change of Name. The application of Steven Bruce Modarai for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steven Bruce Modarai has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Asadullah Qoroshi' Modarai. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before the Court in Department 218 on the 30 day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

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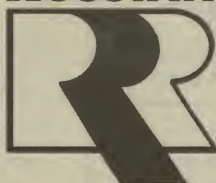
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Cavalcade of Bay Area theatre
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Shakespeare, 'Memphis,' sex roundelays.
pages 28 – 29

Hahn meets Kahn
Hilary Hahn at Zellerbach,
Louis Kahn at the Castro.
pages 31 – 32



Fred Hersch's grace
Lyricism and drive in
solo piano at the Herbst.
page 38



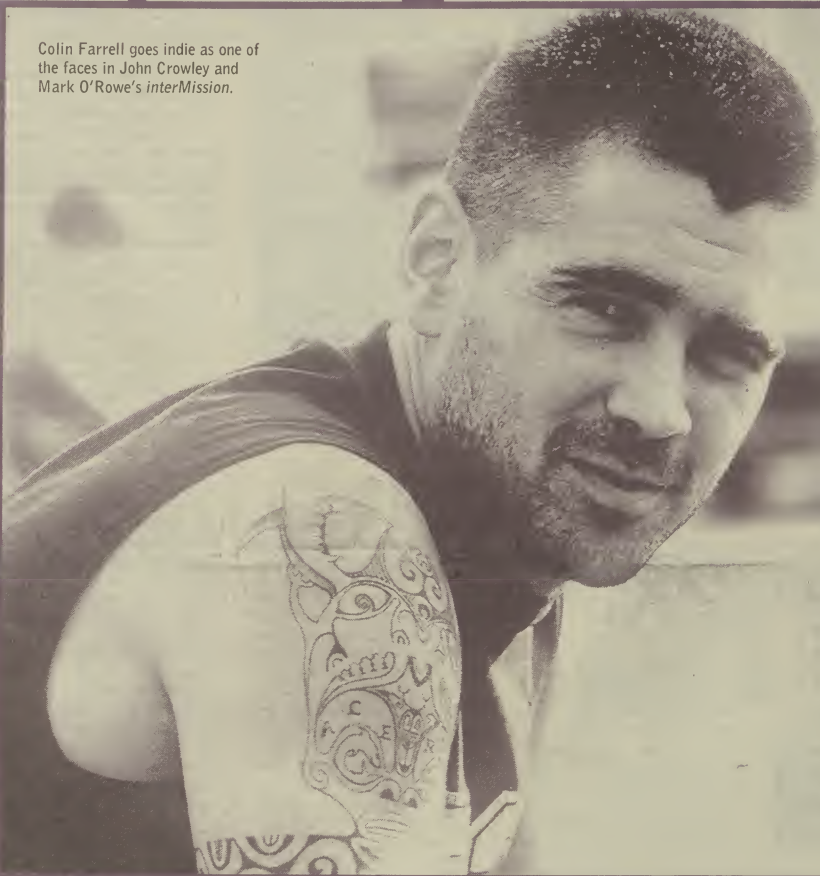
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 6 • 5 February 2004

Capturing the independents

Colin Farrell goes indie as one of the faces in John Crowley and Mark O'Rowe's *interMission*.



10 offerings from the 6th SF IndieFest

by David Lamble

The 6th Annual San Francisco Independent Film Festival (IndieFest), featuring more than 100 independent films and videos, plays Feb. 5-15 at the Castro Theatre, the Roxie Cinema, the Women's Building, and the Oakland Metro. Following are 10 choices.

Funny Ha Ha In the weeks leading up to her 24th birthday, Marnie will pass through a series of bad temp jobs; be denied her first tattoo; be rejected by the guy of her dreams, drunkenly kissed by several Mr. Wrongs, and clumsily wooed by a nerdy guy; and finally, wake up to find herself in control of her life. A thoroughly hetero zone (except for a slyly executed scene of male-on-male lap-sitting), *Funny Ha Ha* is dead-on accurate at capturing all the cringing, embarrassing moments that litter the world of first dates.

In the first act is Alex, a handsome, nerdy, British computer programmer. The scenes between Dollenmayer's Marnie and Christian Rudder's Alex, though over with nervous body language; he plays with his hair, she stammers and makes bad jokes, they both avoid eye contact and, while they are clearly the film's romantic leads, they never actually exchange as much as a peck on the cheek.

But don't be fooled into thinking that Marnie and Alex are just friends. Rather, this non-couple resembles a little-remarked-on niche of gaydom where a queer boy is hooked on a straight one who, in turn, isn't exactly not interested. Such a romantic double-negative can continue for long stretches.

Running through *Funny Ha Ha* is the outmoded social code that still dictates the behavior of boys: that prohibits Dave or Jeff from appearing to get off on their lap-sitting; that insists that Mitchell make an abject ass of himself in

page 30 ►

Pier Paolo without peer

Four films by Pasolini at Yerba Buena Center

by David Lamble

As one of the queerest figures in modern cinema, Pier Paolo Pasolini is impossible to ignore, although often hard to embrace or even like. This month, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents *Pasolini: The Erotic Films*, new 35mm prints of the last four films of the prolific filmmaker, screenwriter, essayist, poet, critic and novelist.

A mass of contradictions even for a 20th-century Italian, Pasolini, who shared his birth year, 1922, with Italy's uniquely homegrown Fascism, was the product of a classical education whose leading patron was Mussolini. A major filmmaker, Pasolini had only one apparent teacher (his longtime director of photography Tonino delli Colli) and few obvious disciples (a 19-year-old Bernardo Bertolucci apprenticed on the set of *Accattone* and would later serve as a pallbearer). In a time when filmmakers are flattered with the label

of visual poet, Pasolini was not only an actual poet but is ranked among Italy's best poetic voices of the 20th century, as well as a political writer on a first-name basis with the likes of Jean-Paul Sartre.

He was a mama's boy (he is buried next to his mother), a lover of boys (of the street-urchin variety; one of whom, Giuseppe Pelosi, is believed to have murdered him), and a lifelong member of the Italian Communist Party. He waged a lifetime war with many of the Party's leading apparatchiks. As Catholic as the Pope and the maker of profoundly religious films (*Accattone*, *Teorema* and *The Gospel According to Saint Matthew*), at the same time he was a bitterly outspoken foe of the Italian Church. A closet painter, Pasolini was a Leonardo for the tabloid media age, a Renaissance man who came to reject most of the trappings of modern industrial society, with its insidious consumerism. Sadly, for Pasolini, who could not help lusting after poor boys (his 1955 novel was aptly titled *Ragazzi di vita*, or *Boys of Life*), he came to despise the generation of boys whose rude passions had been sedated by television.

Salo, or The 120 Days of Sodom In the darkest, queerest and hardest to watch of his major films, Pasolini transplants De Sade's lunatic fantasies to the

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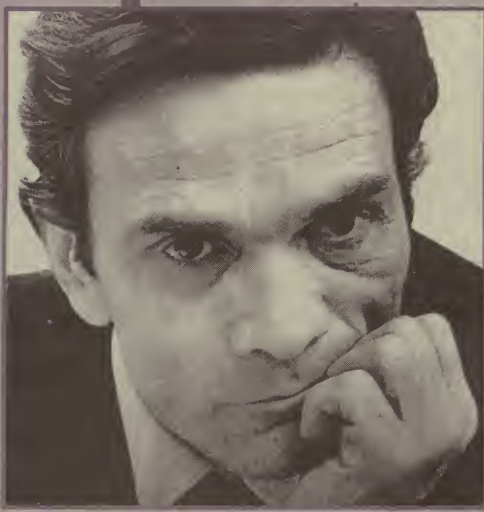


Photo: Rex

DANCE

Gala minus the gay

San Francisco Ballet season opener

by Stephanie von Buchau

Trying to understand why we were so disappointed in the San Francisco Ballet's andy-dy opening-night gala last Wednesday, my friend said, "There wasn't anything gay about it." Since she's a 50ish matron with teenage children and straight as the proverbial arrow, she could have meant "gay" in the original sense of "fun." But she didn't, and I knew exactly what she meant. Previous galas had taken risks, were sexy or even outrageous. They had style, pizzazz, juice. This gala was as dry, proper and corporate as a Martha Stewart boardroom meeting.

Lest you think we were just waxing nostalgic for no reason, we started to recall pieces we had liked at previous galas. In 1997, for instance, was the night of the two same-sex duets. Ivonice Satie's *Shogun* had Chris Stowell and David Palmer, bare-chested and wielding fans like samurai swords, facing off in a duet about friendship? combat? sex? you name it. Then Yuan Yuan Tan and Muriel Maffre stretched their long, spidery limbs in a contest of insect dominatrices in *Pandora Dance*, the most ambiguous ballet ever created by the supposedly staid Helgi Tomasson.

In 2000, we saw Hans van Manen's *Solo*, a spectacular display for three hunky guys; and last year, Tomasson made the bravura *Concerto Grosso* for six of the company's brightest young men, including the French newcomer Pascal Molat. There was not a single whiff of moonlight or roses in these pieces, especially gratifying from Tomasson, who has been unfairly criticized as a Balanchine clone, though his doggedly earnest choreography is nothing like Mr. B's. (We should be so lucky.)

The point is that these pieces had a common thread: unconventional pairings, ambiguous/androgynous sexuality, or volatile kinetic movement designed to excite and enthrall. And they did, so much so that we remembered them clearly even if we couldn't always name the dancers or the music. Nothing trotted out last Wednesday came even close.

Two of Tomasson's pieces, *Twilight* (music by Mendelssohn) and the unicorn's solo from *Chi Lin* (music by Bright Sheng), are not among his more felicitous offerings.

I am still offended by the fake chinoiserie of *Chi Lin*, especially as it was made specifically for Tan, SFB's Shanghai-born diva. She doesn't appear to think she is being exploited, but my friend, who hadn't seen the piece before, was horrified by its imperial implications. We both find Tan ravishing, but would prefer to watch her long extensions unfold in less sexist and racist choreography. As for *Twilight*, it was made for Joana Berman, who never looked comfortable dancing it with Yuri Possokhov. Lorena Feijoo was more convincing because she can make jumping jacks look sexy, but the actual partnering is still awkwardly designed.

Biker break

Much better was Tomasson's *Two Bits*, two solos and a pas de deux set to a couple of Aaron Jay Kernis' 100 Greatest Hits for Gui-

Joan Boada and Kristin Long raised the temperature in *Le Corsaire*.

tar. Wearing raunchy biker-bar costumes by Sandra Woodall, Tina LeBlanc and Guennadi Nedviguine previewed this week's *Don Quixote* partnership. They are both cute, fast and sharp technicians.

The evening's only premiere was an excerpt from Christopher Wheeldon's *There Where She Loved*, in which the relationship of Maffre and Pierre-Francois Vilanoba disintegrated to Kurt Weill's "Je ne t'aime pas." Sung with overwrought vocal mannerisms, à la Edith Piaf, and swooping arm and hand gestures by Elise Ross Rattle, the song's message, "I don't love you anymore," was clearer in the music than in the choreography. Frankly, the similar "Surabaya Johnny" duet from Tomasson's *Nanna's Lied* (especially when danced by LeBlanc) is a more powerful demonstration of painfully unrequited love.

The only thing all evening that raised the temperature was the tawdry pas de deux from Petipa's *Le Corsaire*, a pas de trois in the original, but who's counting? Kristin Long has dropped the cheerleader aspect that spoiled her work for me for many years and become a genuine ballerina, haughty and grand. She didn't quite make it to 32 fouettes, but her chaine turns and other ballerina tricks were just fine. Add the self-regarding Joan Boada, in sleek black tights and bare chest, soaring through split jumps, traveling turns and producing pirouettes à la seconde with machine precision, and you had the kind of inconsequential high voltage that a gala should regularly produce.

The second half of the program was devoted to Kenneth MacMillan's *Elite Syncopations*, a piece which does not wear well, despite the charming onstage musical performance of rags by Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb and Max Morath by pianist/conductor Michael McGraw and his band. Julie Diana, Damian Smith, James

Sofranko, Maffre and Molat were the solo standouts, but lord, that is a lot of work for a little reward. ▼

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Full steam ahead

Playing 'Starlight Express' steam engine

by Richard Dodds

He's not taking Amtrak, but Dennis LeGree is still seeing America by train. The Florida native is playing Poppa, an old steam engine, in a new national tour of *Starlight Express* arriving Feb. 10 at the San Jose Center for Performing Arts. For LeGree, the tour in the Andrew Lloyd Webber locomotive extravaganza is a rediscovery of his homeland after making a career for the past dozen years in Germany.

LeGree, 49, left for Europe at a

pivotal time in his life, and his temporary return also comes at a key moment. The classically trained singer had been married twice and fathered five children when he came out as a gay man in 1991. "My own gay experience only started just before I left America," he said, "so what I know of it is mainly European."

That includes a 10-year relationship with a German man with whom he shares a home in a village near Cologne. "We needed some time to sort ourselves out, and that's another reason I needed some time away from my life there."

And so the timing was right when the creative team with whom LeGree had worked in the German production of *Starlight Express* signed on to create a US tour, and then invited LeGree to recreate his performance as Poppa. His spirits have been buoyed by the reviews that invariably single him out for praise.

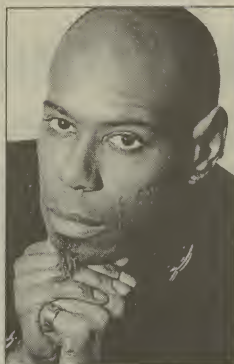
"They've been very kind to me," he said from Los Angeles. "I don't think anyone expected that kind of reaction. I'm very pleased by the fact that they even notice me."

As Poppa, he tries to convince a little steam engine named Rusty that he has the right stuff to beat modern locomotives with names like Greaseball and Electra in a cutthroat race that frames the all-train story. With a cast on roller-skates and in elaborate costumes, *Starlight Express* opened in London in 1984 and ran for an astonishing 18 years. A Broadway production didn't fare nearly as well.

In the German city of Bochum, a stadium-like theater was built especially for *Starlight Express*, and that run continues after more than 15 years. For nearly five of those 15 years, LeGree played Poppa.

"It's the ultimate of what this show should be," he said of the German production. "It has race tracks built on two different levels that go out into the audience, and the main stage is three stories high with ramps and a real suspension bridge. I had to do the races, and it was a lot of fun, but it never got easy."

When he heard he wouldn't have to do the races on the US tour, it was an additional element to take the job. In fact, nobody is doing the races — at least not live. They are now shown in a 3-D movie that audiences watch through supplied glasses.



Dennis LeGree plays Poppa.

Though building race tracks into each theater on a tour is understandably unfeasible, it still seems a bit of a comedown to have the races prerecorded. But reviewers have enjoyed the film, and LeGree was similarly won over. "It's exciting the way it's done," he said.

LeGree is the oldest member of the company, but he's used to this seniority. "Actually, when I first went to Europe to do *Hair*, I was the oldest member of the company, and they called me Poppa even though I was only 30something. I tell people I've been grown since I was 5. I have an old-man and silly-kid spirit mixed together."

LeGree hopes his next project will be the completion of a recording based on a performance piece he has done. "It looks like it will be very marketable, even at my age."

Does LeGree feel old? "No," he said, "but then again, I work in a business where they hire embryos."

For ticket info on *Starlight Express*, call (408) 453-7108 or go to amtsj.org.

Three by O'Hara

Gay playwright Robert O'Hara, who lives in New York, has found the Bay Area to be fertile territory for his often edgy work. He's returning Feb. 6-7 for staged readings of three new plays

at the Buriel Clay Theatre in the African American Art and Culture Complex.

Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience is sponsoring the program that begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 with *Booty Candy*, a collection of 10 short pieces that take a satirical look at post-9-11 America. *Living Room* (Feb. 7 at 3 p.m., including a post-show reception) focuses on the last two white people on Earth, who are trapped in a play by a gay African-American playwright. An interracial couple at the center of *Leigh* (Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.) become entangled in illicit sexual and cultural exchanges.

Previous O'Hara plays staged in San Francisco include *Insurrection: Holding History*, about a gay black man who time-travels back to the slave days, and *Brave Brood*, about a well-meaning psychotherapist who runs a home for working prostitutes.

The Buriel Clay Theatre is located at 762 Fulton St. For more information, call 749-1991.

Going faux

You don't usually expect to see a "Parisian-style musical drag revue" with "Vegas-inspired feather-and-jewel encrusted costumes" in the funky South-of-Market environment of tiny Venue 9, but that's what *Les FAUXLies Fantastique* is promising.

This curiosity, choreographed and directed by James DuBeq, begins a month-long run on Feb. 5 with a gala to be attended by "San Francisco's movers and shakers and drag elite." In addition to the "showgirls who aren't really girls at all," the production includes "a world-class male and female vocal duo" who are unnamed in the press release.

Regular tickets are \$40, but daily ticket specials include half-price admission for most shows. For more information, call 248-1942 or go to outinamerica.com.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Revelatory vision 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

by Richard Dodds

It's a magical world that Shakespeare created for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, so why can't it conjure up Popeye and Olive Oyl, ninja movies, burlesque routines, and even a little Chandler Bing from *Friends*? Quite possibly none of these references were considered by director Anne Bogart and her SITI Company of actors, but their production at San Jose Rep is clearly informed by a century of contemporary entertainment. The happy news is that it works.

Bogart founded the SITI Company in 1992 to promote Suzuki acting styles which call for expressive rather than descriptive movements. Some past results have been more challenging than rewarding, but in this case Bogart cuts through to the dramatic and comic cores of the play.

On a stage with a mirrored surface and backed by a mural of

a clouded sky (set by Neil Patel) and virtually no other scenery other than what Christopher Akerrind's lighting evokes, the focus is on the eight actors as they create two dozen characters who populate a royal court in Athens, an enchanted forest, and a company of vagabond performers. Moments of confusion as players morph between characters soon turn into another layer of theatrical imagination, with Gabriel Berry's Depression-era costumes providing identifying aid.

While movement is key in a SITI production, the words here are given clear yet often novel delivery that allows for occasional casually modern inflections without harming the stuff of Shakespeare. The second act could probably do without a superfluous display of Viewpoints, another of Bogart's favored techniques that in this case looks like a post-modern square dance.

The cast is a wonder of discipline, versatility, and personality.



SITI Company: Life is a 'Dream.'

My favorites are KJ Sanchez as the excitable young lover Hermia, J. Ed Araiza as her beloved Lysander, Kelly Maurer as the scorned Helena, and Christopher Spencer Wells as the overly ambitious actor Bottom.

This is a sleek and revelatory version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that finds grace in its simplicity, in not being another production set in a painted forest dotted with stones made of muslin pasted on chicken-wire.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will run at San Jose Rep through Feb. 22. Tickets are \$18-\$52. Call (408) 367-7255.

THEATRE

Sex machinations

'SEDUCTION' opens at New Conservatory Theatre Center

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Jack Heifner's last new play written for New Conservatory Theatre Center didn't bode well for the current world premiere. *Key West*, seen in 1999, was clumsy in its pandering/scolding approach to gay sex at a clothing-optional resort. But *SEDUCTION* (needlessly in all caps) succeeds because it doesn't try to be about anything but cold, hard, mutually exploitative sex, and, more specifically, the rationalizations needed to at least briefly warm it up.

Some of the credit must go to Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, the 1900 play of 10 two-character scenes with one character moving into the next scene to link the seductions from one story to the next. It's a scenario that easily lends itself to tales of gay promiscuity, though it's worth noting that turn-of-the-century Viennese heterosexuals got there first.

Heifner isn't the first playwright to create a modern-day adaptation of *La Ronde*. David Hare loosely based *The Blue Room* on Schnitzler's play, though the London and Broadway productions were mostly noted for the subtle glimpses of a naked Nicole Kidman.

There is nothing subtle or artistic about the frequent nudity in Christopher Jenkins' production, but it can hardly be called out of place in a play in which every scene leads to sex. In each of the 10 scenes, there is a seducer and a seduced, though these are often roles that the participants take on for their own erotic needs.



(Clockwise from top): Bradford Shreve, Jason Wong and Matt Socha.

We know we aren't in Vienna anymore when, as the lights dim, a rap song in which "motherfucker" is the dominant lyric is played as a hustler and a sailor meet near a big city's docks. Then it's the sailor and a Southern guy in the backroom of a gay bar. The Southern guy moves onto his handyman job at a fancy home, where he is alone with the spoiled son home from college. The student then ends up with... Well, you get the idea.

Heifner has done a good job at creating brief but intense scenes filled with tension even as we know the outcome. He can also write very funny dialogue. An actor who wants a good role from

a playwright tells him, "You're my Miller. You're my Chekhov. You're my Wendy Wasserstein."

Sometimes, though, bits of dialogue that seem to belong to another century slip into the contemporary proceedings.

There are five actors in the cast, and each plays two roles. Christopher Maikish, Bradford J. Shreve, Scott Smith, Matthew Socha and Jason Wong all do strong work and actually look like the characters they are supposed to be.

SEDUCTION runs just 70 minutes and is played without intermission to sustain the play-it-forward energy of the play. But the set changes between each scene are cumbersome and un-

dercut some of the momentum. Too bad a unit set couldn't be devised to serve all the scenes so the sex drive wouldn't have to break every few minutes. ▼

SEDUCTION will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through March 28. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

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Rock 'n' rollers

'Memphis' mines R&B styles

by Richard Dodds

If you love musicals, you gotta love TheatreWorks. Instead of rehearsing the same tried-and-true tuners that are the staple of so many theaters, this Peninsula company not only seeks out the new and unusual, but is also in the business of encouraging new works from significant creators.

The latest example is *Memphis*, a world premiere that sets out to replay a key moment in American musical history through the story of a man who could not rise to the greatness of the sociological changes he helped engender. He is Huey Calhoun, a character loosely based on Memphis DJ Dewey Phillips, who brought rocking black music to white listeners when Truman was still President.

Memphis is the creation of Joe DiPietro, a playwright and lyricist whose *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* is the longest running musical revue in off-Broadway history. The entirely new score, written in 1950s R&B and rock styles, is by David Bryan, whose regular job is on keyboards with Bon Jovi.

But the production's biggest asset has to be Chad Kimball's high-octane performance as Huey Calhoun. Kimball has created a charismatic maniac with a body always in motion and a mouth in overdrive. His boyish appeal and

enthusiasm give his unlikely rise to radio and TV stardom a credible foundation. Those qualities fade in the less-successful second act, which is devoted to Huey's self-destructive behavior and a downfall fueled by pills and liquor. With a single exception, the fierce racial divides of the time are simply swept away by the force of Huey's personality.

Kimball effectively puts across one of the show's strongest songs, the infectious "The Music of My Soul," but the score tends toward a gray sameness when trying to recreate the '50s sounds, and both music and lyrics can grow feeble when the authors try to concoct such novelty songs as "Sin, Degradation, and Communism" and "Little Ol' Doggie Named Dougie."

Another asset is Montego Glover's performance as Felicia, an R&B singer whose relationship with Huey falls apart as his career collapses and hers takes off. Glover is an appealing performer with a strong voice that gets several opportunities to shine.

Gabriel Barre's direction is polished, but the production suffers when the underpopulation of its cast becomes obvious in the dance numbers. Todd L. Underwood's choreography doesn't have much chance in these circumstances, which is unfortunate in a show about the music that makes you want to dance. ▼



Chad Kimball as Huey Calhoun

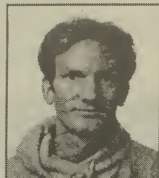
Memphis will run through Feb. 15 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$20-\$48. Call (650) 903-6000 or go to theatreworks.org.

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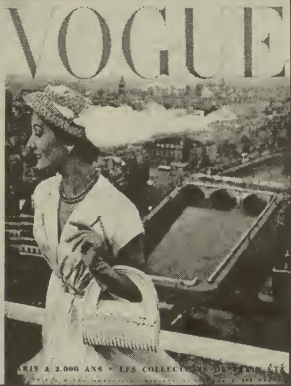
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Cliff notes

'Touching the Void'

by David Lambie

A new docudrama about the improbable survival of two young British mountain-climbers in the Peruvian Andes reminds me of an important reason why we go to the movies. In *Touching the Void*, director Kevin MacDonal punctures all of my fantasies about how cool it might be to follow a strapping hunk up sheer cliffs that would give a mountain goat vertigo. In a film narrated by the actual climbers, Joe Simpson and Simon Yates (based on Simpson's 1988 book), but reenacted by actors and stunt doubles, we're along for the ride as Simpson and Yates make a seemingly effortless climb to a 21,000-ft.-high summit in the Huayhuash range, never before conquered, only to discover to their horror, as Simpson informs us, "80% of accidents happen on descent."

One of *Void's* many pleasures is the contrast in style between the off-handed intimacy of Simpson's storytelling and the amazing photography that gives the mountains an otherworldly feel. We see details that Simpson and Yates might have been too cold and too disoriented to have appreciated.

The men were connected together by a rope. When Simpson slipped on an icy patch and fell 20 feet down the slope, he not only shattered a leg but turned himself into a dead weight that threatened to pull both him and his partner off the cliffs to their certain death.

What happened next created a moral dilemma for Yates. While spending the better part of a day trying to lower Simpson safely down the mountain (without knowing if his friend was still alive), Yates ultimately made the decision to cut the rope and save himself. Simpson, alone and trapped in a deep ice-crater, confesses that his exertions over the next several days were mostly an effort to keep from dying alone.

Void escapes the pitfall of almost all narrated movies that the film will seem anti-climactic because its hero lived to tell his tale. *Void* also demonstrates the underlining psychology behind all extreme sports, while making the best case for a mass conversion to Zen Buddhism since *Apocalypse Now*. ▼

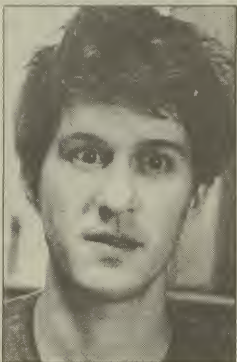


Joe Simpson became a dead weight.

SF IndieFest

◀ Arts cover

pursuit of Marnie; and that impels Marnie and Alex to taunt two boys playing Frisbee in the park with the labels "dickweed" and "dork." Director Andrew Bujalski employs production values that are so minimal they're Dogme by default, without those annoying Danes. (Roxie, 2/10)

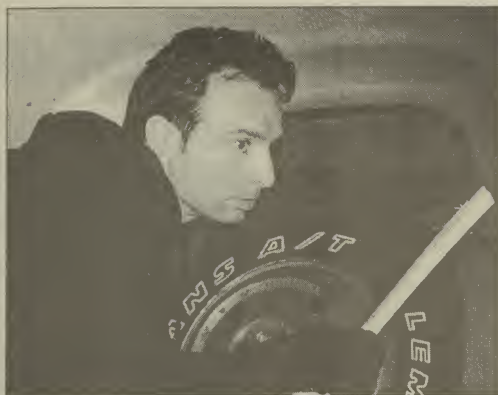


Funny Ha Ha: first-date hell.

Break a Leg "We think our man is an actor who is killing actors." "And you want to stop this?" Not since *Big Picture* has a movie so well-captured the emotional rollercoaster that makes up a life in film. (Castro, opening night, 2/5)

interMission The dating rituals of a group of Dublin 20somethings keep crossing the comedy/drama line in a manner reminiscent of early Mike Leigh. The director/writer team of John Crowley and Mark O'Rowe is aiming to take a peek out of the vein of everybody in town with a noticeable pulse. An ambitious television director follows a pugnacious undercover cop in love with his inner macho (Colm Meaney); a charming rude boy/local hood becomes Public Enemy #1 (a return to the wild side for pretty boy Colin Farrell); a young hellion on a minibike topples a double-decker bus, allowing a mousy girl with a mustache to execute a compelling makeover. An IndieFest first: Farrell will be present for a postfilm Q&A. (Roxie, closing night, 2/15)

Security Practically inventing his own genre, San Francisco's cutting-edge improv-driven film-

Castro opening-night feature *Break a Leg*: emotional rollercoaster.

maker Brien Burroughs delivers another off-kilter comedy almost before he's had a chance to pay off the debts from the first. *Suckerfish* was a savage parody of the pet-supply business. *Security* reveals a darkly comic side to the rent-a-cop industry, as two security guards play at private detective while coping with unresolved male-bonding issues. The dialogue has its ups and downs, but the film delivers its share of laughs with unexpected pathos. Director and cast will be present for a Q&A. (Roxie, 2/7)

Whole In a documentary that crosses a psychic frontier, director Melody Gilbert explores the lives of people whose definition of "wholeness" requires losing a limb. A doctor introducing the subject explains that this little-understood medical condition resembles the predicament of people seeking gender-reassignment surgery.

Not all loved ones are understanding of the partner's need to lose a limb. A woman who has promised to leave her husband if he goes through with his amputation plans chuckles about how she'll reply to questions about her future divorce. "My husband chose to cut off his leg rather than stay married to me." (Women's Bldg, 2/8, 14)

Another film that takes an unorthodox view of body changes, the ultimate one, is *Blue Hadaegh* and Grower Babcock's **A Certain Kind of Death**, an unstinting and unsentimental look at the LA Coroner's Office's mission to care for the City of Angels' yearly harvesting of roughly 1,600 unclaimed

bodies. We follow the fate of three middle-aged men found dead and alone in shabby apartments and transient hotel rooms. Hadaegh and Babcock summon up a kind of visual poetry in the arrangement of everyday objects left behind by the dead: one especially poignant sequence has the coroner's staff uncovering a playbill for an erotic film role played three decades before by the deceased, a gay man.

The film notes small ironies: a dead man who had the foresight to sign the papers authorizing his future embalming; and the sight of county workers pouring unclaimed cremation ashes into an unmarked grave. (Women's Bldg, 2/8, 13)

Nobody Needs to Know An edgy exploration of the world of a New York actress who's hit the wall auditioning for pretentious directors. Director Azazel Jacobs keeps us interested with grainy black-and-white shots of Manhattan, as it looks now and as it has looked for decades. Audition tapes of women improvising a death scene (attired only in a white slip) alternate with security-camera shots of a black male narrator giving a free-form monologue on the state of the world. Story elements mix and match like jazz solos, the film putting body language and the subtext of daily life ahead of plot, with results that have an odd hypnotic effect. The ride is more important than the destination. (Roxie, 2/8, 11, 14)

Outpatient Director/writer Alex Carlin's tale uses a bagful of cinema tricks to portray the plight of a

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Pasolini films

◀ Arts cover

wartime Italy of his own early adulthood, the time just before the death of Mussolini and just after the execution of his own brother Guido, a victim of partisan fighters loyal to Tito. In an outlaw republic defended by the retreating German Army in 1944, *Salo* imagines a country estate taken over by a Fascist dream-team of four sadists (representing the Church, the aristocracy, the banking class, and the politicians) who kidnap 16 boys and girls. In keeping with Pasolini's prejudices, bourgeoisie youth are sacrificial lambs, meant to atone for the sins of their class.

Salo unfolds in three chapters: manias, excrement, and blood. Pasolini uses the book's storytelling format to structure the explicit depiction of increasingly grotesque tortures on the youth, whose fate, crudely put, is to eat shit and die.

One watches with a mixture of

boredom, dread and repulsed horror as Pasolini unfolds a very modern vision of the State as the ultimate hell, with metaphors redolent of the foulest odors of the last century: concentration camps, the gulag, the genocidal state run amok. The boys and girls are, without exception, beautiful creatures, and it's a mark of Pasolini's skillful manipulation of emotion-distancing devices, particularly long shots or scenes of mutilation and murder viewed through opera glasses by the "President" of Salo, that he elicits neither arousal, sympathy nor pity from his audience. Viewers are, in some odd way, also victims: watching this film for all of its 117 chilling minutes is a litmus test for something. Pasolini apparently felt that television made brain-numbed mutants of its audience, and *Salo* is maybe a test-run of how it might be done by an Orwellian auteur.

Ironically, scenes from *Salo* would be invoked at the trial of Pelosi, his accused murderer, as evidence that Pasolini was himself

some kind of special monster. Pelosi would finally receive a Dan White-like sentence and proceed to spend a life in and out of jail for a series of petty crimes. The life of Pelosi thus echoed a Pasolini novel, as if the slum-boy killer were a creature of his victim. (YBCA, 2/27-28)

As fervid in his pursuit of great minds as he was of slum youth, Pasolini would put his own unique stamp on works by Sophocles, Euripides, Boccaccio and De Sade. The Yerba Buena series features the trilogy of films that, in the early '70s, would make the name Pasolini an art-cinema brand-name.

The Decameron According to Pasolini's American biographer Barth Schwartz, Pier Paolo was inspired to do his Boccaccio film while flying on a plane "that was carrying me to Turkey for the shooting of *Medea* [with Maria Callas]. It was a great desire to laugh which inspired *The Decameron*." Pasolini would laugh all

next page ▶

FILM

Design for living

Louis Kahn: architect as father

by Robert Julian

Architects are not known for modesty, and great architects are usually characterized by their lack of it. But even in a field of eccentrics, the late Louis Kahn stands out. In *My Architect*, filmmaker Nathaniel Kahn (Louis' illegitimate son) goes on a cinematic search to understand the father he never really knew.

Louis Kahn died in 1974 of a heart attack, on the floor of the Men's Room at New York City's Pennsylvania Station. At the time, he was bankrupt. His great works were few, and his temperament was that of an artist who was not willing to compromise his artistic vision to accommodate the needs of his clients. As a result, he lost many important commissions waiting for an employer who could understand and share his unique perspective. His masterworks are the Salk Institute in La Jolla, the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth, and the National Assembly Building of Bangladesh.

When Kahn died, his son Nathaniel was 11 years old and living with his mother, a landscape architect 30 years younger than Kahn. As Kahn's only son, Nathaniel experienced his father on his clandestine visits to the child's home. Kahn was married to another woman for most of his adult life, but he carried on affairs with two different women during the marriage. Kahn always lived with his wife, but his two mistresses lived near his Philadelphia home; each of these three women bore one child by the architect.

One of the most amusing moments in *My Architect* comes when Kahn's secretary comments on the difficulties she encountered trying to field telephone calls from the three women who were all trying to locate the architect. The situation was complicated by Kahn's constant traveling to obtain new projects or oversee existing ones. As a filmmaker,

Nathaniel Kahn does a superb job of simultaneously introducing the viewer to this father's work and describing the more personal details of the architect's convoluted personal entanglements. He approaches both tasks with remarkable objectivity.

Sentimental journey

My Architect takes the viewer on a tour of all of Kahn's major projects, and includes interviews with friends, family members, and colleagues like I.M. Pei, Philip Johnson, and Robert A.M. Stern. Cinematographer Bob Richman follows Nathaniel around the globe on his quest to understand his childhood and the man who brought him into the world, and Richman's visuals do justice to both the architecture and the journey. But where the architecture speaks clearly for itself, the architect remains something of an enigma. How could a man whose work spoke to issues of humanity and compassion be so callously

disrespectful to those closest to him? Why could he never hold onto money? Why did only one of Kahn's projects (The Salk Institute) result in a profit?

Nathaniel Kahn's failure to find answers to these questions only makes his film more compelling. *My Architect* is both a study of architecture and a meditation on non-traditional familial relationships that must survive social scorn. At the end of the film, Nathaniel and his two half-sisters have an amazingly awkward reunion, 25 years after they first met at their father's funeral.

It is not surprising that Nathaniel Kahn's film is nominated for a Best Documentary Oscar this year. His work parallels that of his father; both artists manage to achieve the universal by a thorough and highly specific exploration of the personal. ▼

My Architect opens Feb. 6 at the Castro Theatre.



Filmmaker Nathaniel Kahn as a boy, with Louis I. Kahn, circa 1970.

New Yorker Films

Pasolini films

◀ previous page

the way to the bank, for in 1971 his *Decameron* would become the highest-grossing foreign film in the US, in today's dollars approaching *Pulp Fiction*. (YBCA, 2/6)

The Arabian Nights Based on the success of *The Decameron*, Pasolini got a no-frills budget to shoot his version of the great stories, stretching his definition of Arabia to include a scene in Nepal. (YBCA, 2/13)

The Canterbury Tales By casting himself as Chaucer, Pasolini gave little doubt as to whose *Tales* these were. Shot in England in English and later dubbed into Italian, *Canterbury Tales* would be beset by the same censorship problems as the other parts of the trilogy. Ultimately, these problems would cause his American distributor, United Artists, to back away from the enterprise. (YBCA, 2/20) ▼

Pasolini: The Erotic Films plays Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission St., on Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 & 28. Info: (415) 978-2787

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Berkeley heralds Hilary Hahn

Violinist to play Zellerbach Hall on Sunday

by Jason Serinus

She first played the violin in public at age 6, making her major orchestra debut with the Baltimore Symphony in 1991 when she was 11. Her German debut playing the monumental Beethoven Concerto with Lorin Maazel and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1995 was followed by debuts in New York's Carnegie Hall, Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover and Rotterdam. But it was Hilary Hahn's first Sony recording of three of J.S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin, set down when she was 17, that put her in the international spotlight. That she sailed through Bach's technically challenging compositions with ease was less an astonishment than the wealth of emotional nuance with which she invested those great

works.

Now a beautiful 23-year-old, Hilary Hahn's 1999 San Francisco Symphony debut was followed by last spring's romp through the Stravinsky Violin Concerto with MTT and the SFS in San Francisco and on European tour.

This Sunday, February 8, Hahn follows her recent Universal Classics release of Bach Violin Concertos with what is sure to be a stunning Cal Performances recital. Accompanied by Natalie Zhu, Hahn's program includes Mozart, Bach, and Bloch. The two musicians met 10 years ago when both were students at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. They have been playing on and off ever since.

What impressed me most about conversing with Hahn by phone was the girlish innocence with which she answered my queries. Hahn remained charm-

ingly self-possessed and soft-spoken as she explained that she plans to record four Mozart sonatas, including the two on the program, over the next few years.

"I chose those two because they're ones that Natalie and I have always liked reading together. I've read all the Mozart Sonatas with her, and whenever we get to those two, we always really like them. I thought it might be fun to put some more time in on them and actually learn them. They're both very lyrical. They're very interesting to dissect and put back together again."

Going deeper

Does she find herself able to express more feelings and get deeper into what she is playing as she gets older?

"I think the feelings are always there; you just have to learn how to bring them out in the music. My teachers always thought that musicality was important as well as technique, so I was taught how to express myself through music."

Was it difficult for her at first to bare her soul onstage and get to the heart of the music?

"I don't feel like I'm ever not baring my soul. But at the same time, I can't entirely forget what I'm doing and delve so deeply into the music that I lose track of everything. Then I might actually get lost in the music. I have to keep a certain logic going during the concert to keep track of what I've done, what I'm going to do, and how this phrasing relates to that. It's in the practice room that I figure out what I want to express."

Hahn finds herself altering how she plays a passage "all the time. I'm always changing the way I play a little bit. That's how I develop. I have to make sure the little details I alter on the spur of the



Hahn on performance: 'I don't feel like I'm ever not baring my soul.'

moment actually play out in a way that makes sense later on. Once you change one little thing, it changes the whole proportion of the piece."

Bach has been Hahn's companion since an early age. She played the Siciliano and Presto from his solo Sonata in G minor in recital when she was 10, and played the E minor Concerto when she was 12.

"I like playing Bach. It's a lot of fun to work on, because there's always something new to discover in it. Once you've thought an interpretation through, it usually works pretty well. There's no standard interpretation, and the traditions that you're supposed to follow in Bach depend on whom you talk to! With Bach, as long as what you do has logic to it, and as long as you feel it that way yourself, there's no reason why you can't

try it."

Hahn's violin, built by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume in 1864, is a copy of Paganini's "Cannon" Guarneri. The nickname refers to its big, distinctive sound. Asked why she hadn't tried to obtain a genuine Guarneri or Stradivarius, Hahn explained that she has tried other instruments.

"The reason I always wind up back with mine is because I'm so comfortable with my instrument. I've had it for a while, and I kind of grew up with it. It takes a while to get adjusted to an instrument. It adapted to me, and I adapted to it. We work well together." ▼

Hilary Hahn and Natalie Zhu perform in Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall Sun., Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Tickets: (510) 642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Last night was my first visit to SF Jacks. It was a plunge into a pool of erotic bliss. I felt I was part of some primordial sexual rite being celebrated with a loving community of men. What a joyful experience! I became 'The Thing Itself'. -- Bud

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MUSIC

Delicacy at the keyboard

Pianist Peter Serkin plays Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

Royalty paid a visit to Davies Hall last week, and it wasn't Fergie swinging by after her appearance at the Globes. This was a real musical noble, descended from a line of legendary performers.

Pianist Peter Serkin, son of the incomparable Rudolf and grandson of the celebrated violinist Adolf Busch, made an elegant all-Mozart evening one of the unexpected high points of the season so far. It shouldn't have been a surprise, but I have come to associate his crystalline technique more with modern works than the classical repertoire. His championing of contemporary composers has become something of a career trademark.

Serkin's late, lamented father had some detractors. Many complained of an overly aristocratic containment and evenness of tone (read cold and unemotional). Legions of devoted fans still proclaimed him peerless. Certainly, no one could deny his impact on performance standards, especially in this country, where he concertized and taught for glorious decades.

The apple hasn't fallen far from the tree. Peter Serkin has a restrained stage presence that borders on stiffness. His father sometimes appeared almost willful in his command (despite the occasional flurry of wrong notes), but Peter compensates with a gracefulness of arm movement and poetic intensity that make him fascinating to watch.

More importantly, his delicacy and self-control are able to convey warmth of tone that is never cloying, but wonderfully expressive. His performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 17 rivaled all of my previous favorites, and actually revealed beauties never fully grasped before. Serkin has recorded the work on a now out-of-print CD for which I'll definitely be scouring the used record shops.

The rest of the evening was delightfully devoted to conductor Hugh Wolff's take on two other Mozart works. The Symphony No. 27 in G major was actually receiving its first San Francisco Symphony performances! Hard to



Serkin's poetic intensity makes him fascinating to watch in concert.



Conductor Hugh Wolff: lithe

believe, but better late than never.

Wolff, famous as Music Director of the estimable St. Paul Chamber Orchestra for eight years, has proven his worth in repertoire ranging from C.P.E. Bach to Samuel Barber. His lithe and athletic readings of Haydn have translated well to his treatment of Mozart.

The Symphony and the more famous Serenade No. 9 in D major, *Posthorn*, positively flew by in strong interpretations that never lacked for detail. The or-

chestra responded expertly, and appeared to be enjoying themselves as well.

French press

The previous week concluded Vladimir Ashkenazy's stint as guest conductor with an all-French program featuring the Fauré Requiem. It certainly proved to be the flip-side of his overwhelming Strauss *Alpine Symphony* the week before.

As Requiems go, Fauré's vision of death is hardly dreadful. There is no Day of Judgment; instead, a concluding view of Paradise seeks to gently comfort. The lovely melodies can be somber and thrilling, but the overall impression is peaceful. It would take a heart of stone not to melt at the tender *Pie Jesu*.

Soprano Nicolle Foland replaced an ailing Barbara Bonney and managed her contributions well, though her intrusive vibrato was not ideally suited to the score. Swedish baritone Gabriel Suovanen (making his SFS debut) was also sick early in the run. Luckily, he had recovered by the time of my attendance and made a success of his appearance. His voice was almost imperceptibly affected by his illness, and he surely looks

well on stage.

The real stars of the evening undoubtedly did their Director Vance George proud. The SFS Chorus was predictably wonderful, fully capable of following Ashkenazy's unsurprisingly muscular vision of the piece while maintaining a seamless ensemble. George will lead the Chorus in performances of Bach's B minor Mass in late April. ▼



Soprano Nicolle Foland: good save

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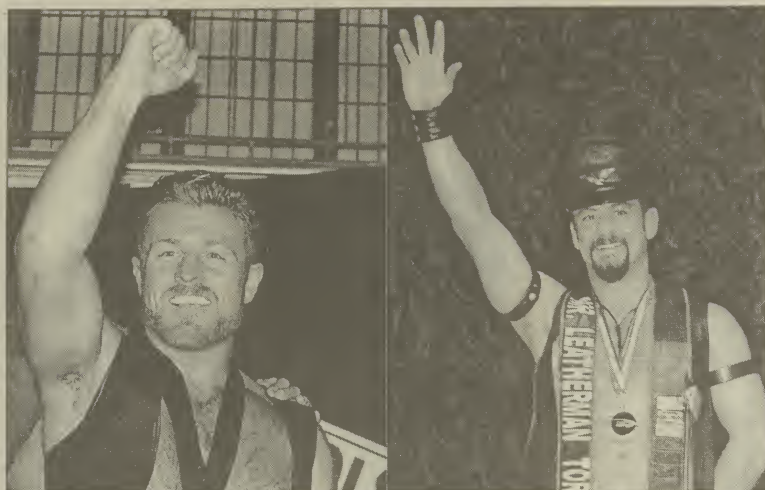
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Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn, left, teams up with Mr. Toronto Leather Remi Collette to host a fundraiser at Daddy's Bar this Saturday, February 7 from 4-8 p.m. to benefit PAWS and Project Open Hand. Be there!

Blame it on Canada!

The San Francisco-Toronto Connection

by Mister Marcus

To my knowledge, there has never been a joint fundraiser between any two IML candidates, let alone one with a Canadian titleholder. And so, for the first time, the team of Mr. San Francisco Leather Julian Marshburn and Mr. Toronto Leather Remi Collette will stage a fundraiser this coming Saturday afternoon, February 7, from 1600 to 2000 at Daddy's Bar. There will be a \$7 beer/soda bust, entertainment, door and raffle prizes all to benefit PAWS and Project Open Hand.

Remi (formerly of San Francisco) and Julian have worked together as bartenders at Daddy's so they are not strangers to each other. Local leather and other personalities are expected to attend this first-ever event and I hope you'll be on hand for the festivities. The South Park Kids won't be there but everyone who is caring and young at heart will be. See you there!

Round 3: Bare Chest Contest

Last Thursday, January 29, another record crowd was on hand at the Powerhouse for Round 3 of the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar contest. Judges Ken Ferraris, Donna Sachet,

Didier Carbagnolle, Troy Anicet and Tyrone faced George Delmar, David Lang and Drew Ugrinow. Raffle tickets were sold and the usual shenanigans took place onstage with the audience howling and quite attentive.

When all the scores were added up, all three men managed to qualify for the final competition in April: George Delmar, David Lang and Drew Ugrinow.

The next contest will take place on tonight, Thursday, February 5, at 2130.

Know anyone worthy of landing a page on the 2005 calendar? Send them down to participate.

Matt Edge wins in London

Last Saturday, January 31, IML 2003 John Pandal stepped aside from his Mr. Hoist Leather (London) and sashed his successor. Eighteen men were there vying for the title and some £750 (UK Pounds) or \$1,370 US plus a trip to Chicago to compete at IML 2004.

When all the audience votes were counted, Matt Edge emerged the winner and will be among the IML Class of 2004 in Chicago next May.

From LA to Ottawa

In Los Angeles (well, the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles County), the fourth of nine

feeder contests took place at The Bullet Bar with seven men competing for the title.

As it turns out a guy named "REV" was chosen the winner and advances to compete for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 title on Saturday, March 27. Five more feeder contests to go until the biggie at the end of March.

In other areas, you may be aware that Canada's leather men have established the Canadian Leather Man, Woman and Boy titles contest taking place in Ottawa in July. Last week the organizers announced that the first ever International Mr. Leather, David Kloss, has been named the head judge for that competition. Stay tuned for more details on this premiere event.

Coming your way

Lots of events are coming your way in the coming weeks, most notably the Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather Contest in the City of Brotherly & Sisterly Love the weekend of February 12-14, and the Pantheon of Leather and Mr. Cell Block contests in Chicago the same weekend.

In San Francisco, it's the Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards & Show on Saturday, February 14 at Most Holy Redeemer Church, and International Bear Rendezvous takes place all weekend.

Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather and International Master & Slave contests in Dallas the next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 5

The fourth round of the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar contests tonight at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Got it? Flaunt it! A painless way to raise money for those less fortunate than you.

Friday, February 6

Bay Area Cigar Buddies gather at the Eagle Tavern patio tonight and every Friday night. Join the puffers and meet a great group of guys.

Saturday, February 7

Mr. SF Leather Julian and Mr. Toronto Leather Remi team up to host a beer/soda bust at Daddy's from 1600-2000 with a \$7 donation, raffles, auctions, entertainment, leather galore.

Weekend, February 6-8

The Heart of America Leather competition in Kansas City, Missouri this weekend. Winners ad-

vance to ABW in Washington, D.C. in April.

Sunday, February 8

Castro Lions stage their annual beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800 featuring the Mr. Heart Throb contest for \$8 and fun, fun, fun!

Tuesday, February 10

Bondage Buddies get shackled up at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules. Doors open 2000-2300. Call 777-HEAD.

Weekend February 13-15

Mr. Cell Block Leather Contest and Pantheon of Leather Awards in Chicago.

Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather competition in Philly.

In SF, the annual Motorcycle Awards on Sat., International Bear Rendezvous and International Mr. Bear Contest on Sunday.

Masculine mayhem

by John F. Karr

The title *Resurrection* hasn't anything to do with the contents of the recent Hot House movie. But it boldly announced director Steven Scarborough's re-emergence as a vital filmmaker after a two-year hiatus. During this time, Hot House had reissued on DVD the veritable fetishist's primer of its estimable back catalogue, and released a few independently made and noteworthy features it acquired. But *Resurrection* popped them into full-scale production.

For its blazing first half, it makes the company seem born again. The opening scenes are intensely focused, enthrallingly performed bouts. Tautly lean Adam Wolfe is a nearly demonic top, but boyish Trent Atkins takes charge of him with ferocious command. This kid slays me: heavily lashed eyes of purest baby blue accost with sexual treachery; sneering lips snarl lascivious desire; neatly combed hair always perfectly in place, no matter how crazed the kid gets. He looks more vulnerable than ever with braces on his teeth, innocent as Oliver Twist, about to ask, "Where Is Love?" Then he slithers into a leather sling, throws his legs in the air, and shows you its exact whereabouts.

The second scene delivers Jacob Scott, a bald-headed, hairy-bodied and burstingly burly daddy whose broad biceps swirl with full-sleeve tats. He strains his meaty flanks in a muscular fuck with Ben Archer, the Sam Elliot of porn. After that, Bret Wolfe slurps Trent's cock through a glory hole as maniacally as a *Fear Factor* contestant out to earn a million.

But then those Hot House flaws of yore reappear. Scenes made incidental by their brevity; continuity breached and obvious strengths dissipated by cutaways, incidentals, and bumptious editing. Your dick won't falter as Jason Branch plows Paul Johnson, or heavy-hung Jon Asher mistreats Sky Donovan. But the movie's lost its intense focus and unwavering observation. Too bad. I had hoped that with this resurrection, Hot House would be recreated.



Thick-thighed Dick Wolf makes for a charming dogboy in *Skuff II*.

Diff'rent strokes

And, verily, it has come to pass. Both *Mo' Bubble Butt* (review coming soon) and *Skuff II - Downright Filthy* have a new-

found stylistic security. Even the Hot House bonus material is finally competitive, with the creation of the savory "Stroke" series, generous allotments of juicy solo scenes that stand on their own. The *Resurrection* bonus disc

has 23 minutes of Jacob Scott and Sky Donovan's dildo joy-riding in two "Stroke" solo scenes, and the *Skuff* bonus disc offers 35 minutes of "Stroke" dildo solos for three of its fascinating new stars, plus two minutes of kinky piss play. That's what's called more bang for your buck.

As for the movies, the high resolution and saturated color of *Resurrection* are maintained by Scarborough's talented collaborators. It's an axiom that sex clubs never look good under the harsh lights of filming. But Boardman's crafty work makes even the tawdry basement of the Powerhouse look like a mystic sex dream. Michael Clift's videography is secure and all-seeing. Most of all, the scattershot editing is calmed; no more jerking the viewer around, no scenic fragments. Hot House's expected strong action — advanced buttplay, dildo-drilling and uber-

butch fucking — is conveyed throughout with matching film craft.

Skuff II is especially bracing in the masculine strength of its fuck action, and its impressive newcomers. Studmuffin Cody Scott and husky Daxx Reed are talented bottoms. New tops are glamorous giant Arpad Miklos and especially handsome and broadly-cocked Collin O'Neal. Then there are two stand-out stars. Alex Collack is a hardbodied Russian of austere countenance, pearly-white skin, and an unquenchable gullet of an ass. Oh, unfathomable depths! Yet some massive dildos and the steely cocks of several sturdy men sound it in full. Two at a time in his first scene.

Then you meet blue-eyed, Mohawked and thick-thighed Dick Wolf, the most charming dogboy you could imagine. He's a playfully eager pup, friskily wagging his tail. Quite literally, and no wonder: there's a dog-tailed rubber buttplug wiggling out of his ass. That must feel good. Still, couldn't all this yapping and bouncy role-playing elicit laughs? Not when Big Daddy Jacob Scott is putting the pup through his paces, feeding him some doggie-treat dildos, and rewarding his good behavior with a big fat bone, right up his doggie wazoo. But how does doggie win Best in Show? He tops his master in a surprise flip-flop! Ah, pets are such a joy. ▼

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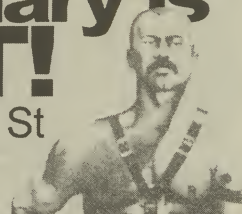
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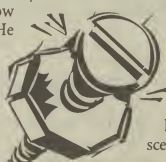
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Karnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

weekend of February 26-29.

Leather Pride Week takes place in San Diego from February 28 to March 7, with Mr. San Diego Leather being chosen on Saturday, March 6.

Mr. Cleveland Leather will be chosen in that city on the same night at the Tool Shed bar.

Candidates for Emperor and Empress of SF are campaigning. Remember to vote on Saturday, February 21. Go China! Go Fernando! Oops, did I just endorse them?

Oscars® at the Castro

On Sunday, February 29, the Annual Academy Awards will be shown on the BIG screen at the Castro Theatre as a benefit for Cystic Fibrosis. General admission tickets are \$65 or \$125 for lots of extras. Harry Lit and Donna Sa-

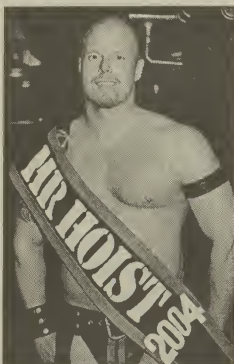
chet are sponsoring this one. For tickets, call (510) 267-9699 or surf to www.academygala.com for more info.

The weekend of March 5 and 6, it's the Mr. Tulsa Leather contest at the Tool Box in that city and in Munich, Germany. Mr. Bavaria Leather will be chosen the week of March 11 to 15. That should keep you busy planning and gearing up your plastic!

For cigar smokers and their admirers, know that the Bay Area Cigar club meets every Friday at the Eagle and have some big events planned in the coming months.

So long for a while...

That's all the songs. By the way, it's a shame there are no graceful losers in leather competitions. Accusations of "fix" and "fraud" are being hurled about concerning the recent Dyke Girl and Boy. No merit to the argument. Just sour grapes. How sad! ▼



Matt Edge won the Mr. Hoist 2004 Leather title last Saturday night, Jan. 31, over 17 other contestants. He succeeds Mr. Hoist 2003 John Pandal who went on to win the IML 2003 title. Matt competes for the IML 2004 title in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Out/Rage II

Lately I've been leaning toward **Al Sharpton** in the Democratic Primary. Not that I think **Dennis Kucinich** is "unelectable," it's just that Sharpton is the most progressive of all the candidates. He more than anyone is waging a campaign to broaden and strengthen democracy in America, and not by including white guys with Confederate flags in the Deep South. Whether or not those white guys actually go to the polls, they vote with their guns and belligerence, just as they used to vote with their lynchings. Sharpton is on to those guys, and he doesn't flatter them. He's the one most directly confronting the issue of race from an African American perspective, as must be done in the country — still! The Civil Rights movement is very much alive, and it needs our help. And we owe it. We'd be nowhere without it. Think how much we could accomplish by thinking and acting beyond our narrow agenda. A great nation can't have a true democracy when a huge mass of its would-be voters are turned off to the process by a combination of poverty, illiteracy, and exclusion from the process stemming from countless injustices perpetrated by the system over decades.

In recent weeks in San Francisco, there's been a healthy venting of views on racism in the queer community, thanks to the dispute over the recent "blackface incident" at Trannyshack. I think that fracas barely scratched the surface of the emotions at play. What would be interesting is if Sharpton piped up on the issue. He's known for his frank talk even more than **Howard Dean** is. If Sharpton took up the banner of fighting racism in the gay and lesbian community, he could make news. Would it make any sense politically? Maybe not, but it would do a lot to help queer people heal their schisms, and we'd be in his debt. He'd even be due a free queer makeover!

And how is someone like Sharpton to get a grasp of the issues? Simple, he could just join others at the **Jon Sims Center for the Arts** (www.jonsimsctr.org) next Friday, February 13 when **Out/Rage** presents "What Color Is Your Fag?"

Out/Rage is a multi-disciplinary performance collective of gay and bisexual men of diverse nationalities and ethnicities, engaging in theatrical dialogue and artistic inquiry into issues of race and racism within the gay male community. Last May, when **Out/Rage** first performed this show, I was fascinated by their approach. They came together as a troupe to dance and act out their messages, and each individual offered a personal sharing of experiences with racism. They listed common stereotypes and toyed with them. It was raw and affecting and I'm glad they're doing it again. I hope they get a big audience draw, whether or not Sharpton shows up.

As they say of themselves, theater "enables us to reach out to each other and our audiences within an accepted space of creativity, risk taking, and truth-sharing. An evening with **Out/Rage** is thought-provoking, interactive, and always **OUTRAGEOUS!**"

Out/Rage are: John Antoniadis, Marco Austin, Ramon Balsamo, Jason Hancock, Ruven Hannah, Weihaui Lau, Paul Loper, Antoine Moore, Jamez Smith, and Neils Teunis, ten gay/bisexual men, among whom are speakers of Spanish, Tagalog, Dutch, Hebrew, English, Chinese, and French. ▼



The Whoa Nellies kick up their heels at "Bear Night" at the Eagle Tavern. See Thursday.

Eri

Maiana Minahal @ JSC

Maiana Minahal performs a work in progress, "before their words," a collaborative, interdisciplinary, multimedia poetry performance combining subversive poetic narrative with indigenous pre-colonial Philippine cultural traditions and art forms. The narrative unfolds as the (queer) re-telling of the Philippine folktale of Sondagay, the village woman who battles the wind goddess to re-claim her stolen husband. Featuring Michelle Bautista and Nedjula Bagulo. Maiana Minahal is a queer Filipina American poet and teacher, born in Manila, raised in Los Angeles, and currently living in San Francisco. Just back from a book launch in Manila, Maiana's first book of poetry is *Sitting Inside Wonder* (Monkey Press). Show followed by a Q&A session. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Info: Maher Sabry at (415) 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'SPRAY'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros
Final week; show added: Theatre Rhinoceros and Mike Zimmerman present **SPRAY**, written and performed by Mike Albo, New York's "pop culture prophet." Directed by Anna Catherine Rutledge. It's a speedy mix of Mike's signature monologues, vignettes, dances, and rants about our hyper-commercial, over-designed, over-marketed lives. Due to overwhelming demand and sold-out houses The Rhino has added an additional show on Sat. Feb. 7 at 3 pm (2 shows on 2/7 at 3 & 8pm). Wed-Sat at 8pm. \$15 Wed; \$20 Thu; \$25 Fri & Sat. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

'The Last Sunday in June' @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents Jonathan Tolins' comedy *The Last Sunday in June*, directed by George Maguire. Named for the date of the annual NYC Gay Pride Parade, *The Last Sunday in June* is set in the Christopher Street apartment of lovers Tom and Michael, where a group of gay friends have gathered to watch the festivities. Featuring Leon Acord, Megan Blotchinski, Tristan Butler, P.A. Cooley, Elias Escobedo, Thomas Fahrner, David Kirkpatrick and Andrew Nance. \$18-\$28. Wed-Sat 8pm; Sun 2pm. Thru Feb. 29. NCTC,

25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'SEDUCTION' @ NCTC

SEDUCTION, an adaptation by Jack Helfner of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, commissioned by NCTC, featuring an all-male, gay version told in ten interlocking scenes. A comedic, sexy tour-de-force tracing a circle of lovers, casual and otherwise, across Vienna. 18-28. Thru March 28. 8pm Sat; 2pm Sun. (Thu., March 4 show captioned for hearing impaired.) New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Dooley' & 'A Taste of Heaven' @ NCTC

Two one-act plays: **Dooley** by Harry C. Cronin; and **A Taste of Heaven** by Michael D. Jackson, directed by Alan S. Quismorio. **Dooley** is an examination of dogmatic patriotism, homophobia, Catholic guilt and government witch hunting. **A Taste of Heaven** is based on the diaries of American poet F. S. Ryan and follows the journey of two college friends as they try to reconcile their feelings for each other with the demands of a traditional society and the rules of marriage in Victorian times. Featuring Pete Castavka and Nick Sholley in both plays. \$25 Thu/Sun; \$28 Fri/Sat; 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru Feb. 22. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Positive Force Dinner Date' @ The Atrium

Join the guys of Positive Force in this collaborative event with the **Meeting Game Salon** as they present "Positive Dinner Date." It's a fun dinner gathering and opportunity to connect with old and new friends. Includes structured seat rotation so you get a chance to meet everyone, and email forwarding service to those you meet, if desired. By advance reservation only. Hosting Fee: Complimentary Dinner; \$25, plus tax and tip, for a total of \$32, paid in advance. \$5 service charge for telephone reservations. Cancellations: 24 hours notice for credit toward another event. 7-9pm. Restaurant info/registration: 864-0790, ext. 307; www.meetinggame.com/gay

'Pasolini: The Erotic Films' @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents a Friday-night series of new 35mm prints of the last four films of prolific filmmaker, screenwriter, essayist, poet, critic and novelist Pier Paolo Pasolini

(1922-75). Tonight: *The Decameron* (1974), Pasolini's exotic adaptation of the ancient Persian anthology. Pushing the boundaries of sex and violence, Pasolini interweaves ten stories, sometimes telling one within another and linking them through the story of a free-spirited slave girl who becomes a King. \$7 gen'l; \$4 student, senior, Center member. 7:30pm. YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St). Info: 978-2787; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

'nightShift' @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts with Blasthaus and the Institute For Unpopular Culture presents "nightShift," a dance party fusing art, music and entertainment. This late-night version of the popular Shift happy hour events hosted by Epicenter fills the Center's Galleries and Forum building with video imagery and a variety of electronic music forms. Featuring a low-tech visual environment designed by XXX in addition to exclusive DJ appearances. \$18 advance, \$20 door; free for Epicenter Members and a guest. 8pm-2am. YBCA Galleries and Forum Building. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

James Groleau @ Tinhorn Press/Gallery

Opening reception: Tinhorn Press/Gallery presents the SF premiere of James Groleau's "Blood Bone Elegy," a suite of 18 color mezzotints printed chine collé. The series is an allegory on the making of war and depicts a battle between the forces of life and death, with final images of survival. Says Groleau: "The series opens with 'The Lesson'; a skeleton instructs a young woman in the art of the violin. I imagine they practice a sad, disturbing tune over and over again. By playing the violin the woman quietly, perhaps submissively, acquiesces to the path of war. The violin symbolizes their collaboration." Free. 6-9pm. 511 Laguna St. Info: 621-1292; www.tinhorgallery.com

Sat

SFinX/Kreatibo Collective @ JSC

Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents its resident program, **San Francisco in Exile (SFinX)**, featuring Kreatibo, a queer pin@y artists' collective born out of the need to take its members' stories out of the margins and into the spotlight. Performers include: Maiana Minahal, Lolan Sevilla,



Monique Jenkinson takes part in the delerium of "FreezerBurn" at New Langton Arts. See Saturday.

Cynthia Blancaflor, Morningstar Vancil, Tina Bartolome, and Nedjula Bagulo

Using music, movement, words and images to tell these stories, Kreatibo is a defiant fist held up in the face of violence and oppression in its members' communities; it is also a hand bending to the work of preservation and expression of a collective cultural memory. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission Street (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

SFGMC: 'The Boys Do Bette & Babs' @ ODC Theater

Join the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Artistic Director Dr. Kathleen McGuire, and hostess Donna Sachet (SFGMC Empress-in-Residence) for "The Boys Do Bette & Babs," a night of cabaret. It's time for duelling divas as members of SFGMC step into the cabaret spotlight with the music of those legendary gay icons, Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler, with musical direction by Christian Bohm. \$20 advance; \$25 day of show. 8pm Saturday, Feb. 7; 2pm & 7pm Sunday, Feb. 8. ODC Theater (Oberlin Dance Collective Theater), 3153 17th St. Info: www.sfgmc.org

'FreezerBurn'

@ New Langton Arts
New Langton Arts presents **FreezerBurn**, the latest in Langton's **TEST TUBE** series, brings together five performance artists for an evening inspired by the oxymoron. Featuring Elaine Buckholtz, Linda Ford & Pam Martin, Monique Jenkinson, and Space Vacuum from Outer Space. Expect visual dementia, verbal delirium and sonic disarray, presented by Bay Area performance artists with backgrounds in fields as diverse as classical dance, painting, sculpture, literature, and music. \$10-\$5 sliding (\$5 members, students, seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 626-5416; www.newlangtonarts.org

Tu B'Shvat ('New Year of Trees') Hike @ Land's End

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ) invites all to the "New Year of the Trees" with a walk and roving Seder (service). Bring items to share with the rest of the group celebrating the seven fruits and grains associated with the holiday (wheat, barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olives and honey from dates). Water and sturdy shoes recommended. Rain cancels event. Meet 2:30pm at CSZ (290 Dolores at 16th St.) or 3:30 at Trail Head at Lands End (ocean end of parking lot where Merrie hits Point Lobos). Info: 415/861-6932 or office@shaarzahav.org. For a complete listing of events happening at CSZ, please visit www.shaarzahav.org/calendar.htm

Danny Hoch's 'Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop' @ Friend Center, JCCSF

The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) launches SF's newest performing arts venue, The Eugene & Elnor Friend Center for the Arts, in its magnificent new facility at 3200 California St. Tonight The Hub (a

multicultural young-artists community founded by Amy Tobin) presents Danny Hoch's one-man hit show *Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop*, commissioned by Berkeley Rep in 1997 and winner of the 1998 Bay Area Drama Critics Circle Award, the 1998 New York Press-Best of Manhattan Award, and the 2000 Urbanworld Festival Award. \$26 members; \$28 gen'l public. 8pm. 3200 California St. Tix/info: 292-1233.

Thrive @ The Center

Thrive: a group of guys; gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV and not only surviving the disease, but thriving in spite of it. Donation suggested. 1-3pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market (at Octavia), First Floor. Info/other events/email list: thriving-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Family Valentine Potluck @ The Center

Our Family Coalition in collaboration with the LGBT Family Collaborative invite you to a Free Family Valentine Potluck. Spend the afternoon making valentines, playing in KidCorner (sponsored by the Center's KidSpace), face-painting with COLAGE and have a children's live music sing-along with J. Byrd Hosch & Friends (www.jbyrdhosch.com). Bring a potluck dish to share and a family photo for children to use. All children who attend will be entered in a free raffle for valentine prizes. A notary public will also be on hand to do free domestic partner registrations. Free. 11am-2pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Volunteers needed for set-up, photo taking, and clean-up; call Aimee at 415-981-1960.

Renate Stendhal: 'Let's Talk' @ Nordstrom

True Secrets of Lesbian Desire with author Renate Stendhal. The inaugural event in the new "Let's Talk at Nordstrom" series produced by Betty & Ann. Free. Book talk with question & answer session followed by reception and book-signing. \$35 (cost of admission includes one copy of book). Info: Ann Biderman (annb@bettytslist.com), 650-557-0350; www.bettytslist.com

'Boy Meets Boy 2' @ King of Clubs, Mountain View

"Boy Meets Boy 2 — Speed Dating." Frustrated by the amount of effort needed just to find a date for Saturday night? In a few hours, meet lots of new people from around the Bay Area, maybe even that someone special. MB2 screams diversity and is open to men of all ages and backgrounds. Sponsored by South Bay Queer & Asian (SBQA). \$10 to Feb. 6; \$15 door. 4-7pm. King of Clubs, 893 Leong Dr., Mountain View. Info/registration: www.sbaqa.com

'Queer Goth Chinese New Year II' @ Ginger's Trois

Gggreg Taylor presents "A Queer Goth Chinese New Year II," the White Party, hosted by Jordan L'Moore. Says Gggreg: "White symbolizes death in Chinese culture, so what better juxtaposition for Chinese New Years than a

White Party? Why be like every other goth in San Francisco when you can come as a faux Asian neo-Goth poseur? Exchange your jet black for the white of lilies and enjoy a night of carousing and cocktail jousting. White dress encouraged. The parade officially runs from 5:30 to 8:30. The bar is tiny and will be mobbed. Recommend you actually show up 6-6:30 for maximum chaos. Ginger's Trois, 246 Kearny (at Sutter). Info: www.ggreg.com

Sun

Charlie Varon @ The Marsh

The Marsh launches "The San Francisco Treasure Series" showcasing the latest work of local artists whose visions have been nurtured on The Marsh's stage since it was founded in 1989. Tonight: solo performer Charlie Varon, "Visiting Professor of Pessimism," taking on the Bush war machine, peace protests, being Jewish in America and much more with his poignant, fearless, always original political satire. \$25-\$50 sliding. 8pm. 1062 Valencia St. (btwn 21st & 22nd). Tix/info: 826-5750; www.themarsh.org

PFLAG/Soul Source @ St. Francis Lutheran Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) hosts Soul Force, an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against GLBT people. Soul force is one of the names Gandhi (and later Dr. King) gave to the principles of relentless nonviolent resistance. Free. 2-3pm PFLAG Support Group (everyone welcome); 3-4pm Soul Force. 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

Stephen Prutsman @ Noe Valley Ministry

In recital: Noe Valley Chamber Music presents acclaimed pianist Stephen Prutsman in the program "Russians in Black & White," featuring Scriabin's Third Sonata and Rachmaninoff's Études Tableaux (with a touch of jazz for good measure). \$15 (\$12 student/senior). 4pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd). Tix/info: 648-5236; www.nvcm.org

Ellen Greene @ Martuni's

Enjoy a martini at Martuni's and enjoy the sounds of Ellen Greene in "Torch," an intimate evening of songs. For her return engagement, Greene, who is best known for her role as Audrey in the classic movie musical Little Shop of Horrors, has added new songs. You can also catch Greene in The Cooler with Alec Baldwin & William H. Macy, now playing at the Galaxy Theater. \$20. Two shows: 6pm & 8pm. 4 Valencia St. (at Market). Info: 241-0205.

Mon

'You Can't Stop The Beat'

@ The Plush Room
You Can't Stop The Beat! — the 3rd annual Valentines cabaret to fight AIDS. A benefit for the UCSF AIDS Health Project, hosted by Donna Sachet. Produced by Sean Ray. Featuring song styles from Broadway to pop to standards. Starring Donna Sachet (hostess and emcee), Jeanne Batacan-Harper, Lara Bruckmann, Manuel Caneri, Wade Crosson, Beth Elliott, Jorge Hernandez, Michelle Jones, Sean Ray, Ryan Rigazzi, Pia Trinidad, Mariou Ubaldio, Steve Valdez, Thema Yacap-Zaragoza. With Ron Jenkins, Ben Prince and Miles Graber on piano, Luke Williams on drums, Ben Bernstein on bass, and Keve Wilson on oboe/English Horn. \$50 (includes pre-show catered reception, reserved seating), \$35 (includes pre-show reception) and \$25 (gen'l admission). Pre-show reception at 6:30pm; doors open 7:30pm; curtain at 8:00pm. The Plush Room at The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Tix/info: Sean Ray at 255-7326; email SeanRaySF@aol.com



Passion III, mezzotint chine collé, by James Groleau, part of his "Blood Bone Elegy" at Tinhorn Press Gallery. See Friday.

Jane Cleland & Cathy Cade @ Modern Times Bookstore

Come hear activist photographers Jane Cleland and Cathy Cade talk about their upcoming Dyke March photo exhibit and events. Jane and Cathy have a combined 50 years of photographing LGBT communities. Jane was a founding member of the first Dyke March organizing committee in 1993 and served as a member for many years. She is a freelance photographer whose work regularly appears in the Bay Area Reporter. Cathy6 has been documenting LGBT communities since the early '70s, and the Dyke March since 1996. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246; www.moderntimesbookstore.com

Stephanie Howard @ QComedy

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy" hosted by LA-based comedian Stephanie Howard, who has performed on Olivia Cruises with Margaret Cho and Suzanne Westenhoefer and has appeared on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend." With Erin Souza, Blair Butler, Ryan Stout, Lane Douglas, Dana Cory, Bob Douglas and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; www.QComedy.com

Tue

Harold Norse @ City Lights Bookstore

Legendary poet and mover-&-shaker Harold Norse of the Beat Generation comes to City Lights Bookstore. An acolyte of Walt Whitman and Hart Crane, and companion and correspondent of W. H. Auden, Tennessee Williams, Charles Bukowski, Allen Ginsberg, Dylan Thomas, and James Baldwin, Norse has never received his due as one of America's most innovative yet accessible poets. William Carlos Williams called Norse "the best poet of your generation" and pushed him toward his groundbreaking work in "the American idiom." Norse was of the generation that challenged taboo subject matter in American poetry; his poems of gay love have been recognized as among the first and best of their kind. This retrospective, *I Am In The Hub of the Fiery Force*, is a collection of almost 70 years of his poetry, much of it previously unpublished, all of it unavailable. Free. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave.

'Pills Profits Protest' @ The Center

Screening & Panel: Project Inform, the Horizons Foundation and ACTION = LIFE women's film collective host a benefit reception and community screening of the new documentary *Pills Profits Protest: Voices of Global AIDS Activists*. This one-hour film is an up-to-the-minute, inspirational chronicle of the global

AIDS treatment access movement. Co-director Anne-christine d'Adesky, a veteran AIDS journalist, will moderate a panel of global and domestic treatment activists entitled "Think Globally, Act Locally: Community Responses to the Challenges of Treatment Access." \$10 at door. 6-9pm (reception 6pm; screening 7pm; panel 8pm). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: www.PillsProfitsProtest.org

'Edge of Aquarius' @ 'Trannyshack'

Mother Love herself, Putanesca, joins guest hostess Peaches Christ (filling in for Hekline) in "Edge of Aquarius," a hippyish night of Love-making and Peace to all Tran-kind. DJ Pinky Ring spins. Mi\$S Chocolate at the door. \$7 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Spencer Day @ Don't Tell Mama, NYC

San Francisco-based singer/composer Spencer Day plays his first week-long run in New York City where he'll be joined by Yair Evnine on guitar and cello and Dan Andrews on the bass, offering new original material, classic jazz standards and folk and country music from Johnny Cash to Paul Simon. Following that he'll be touring around Brazil for most of March and some of April. \$15. February 10-14 (Valentines Day). 9pm. Located at 343 West 46th St. (Restaurant Row), New York City. Tix/info: 212-757-0788; www.donttellmama.com; www.spencerday.com

Wed

New Leaf Outreach to Elders @ The Center

New Leaf Outreach to Elders, which serves the LGBT elder community with programs, social services, referral, and counseling invites all seniors to a Valentines Party at The Center. Say the organizers: "We'll have food and drink and entertainment and dancing. This is a time to throw off the winter blues and don the pinks and reds of les affaires de coeur from past, present and future. Women, men, transgenders all, Be a sweetheart and come to the ball!" Free. 1-3pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 255-2937.

Stefon Harris Quartet @ Intersection

Jazz at Intersection presents San Francisco Performances Jazz Artist in Residence Stefon Harris, one of the most important and creative vibraphonists of his generation, as well as a talented composer and bandleader. Featuring Intersection's Resident Composer Marcus Shelby on bass, Kim Thompson on drums, and Adam Shulman on piano. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15/16). Info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org

Ancient Future @ 19 Broadway, Fairfax

25th Anniversary Concert by Ancient Future in their Birthplace, featuring the Organic Trance Trio variation of Ancient Future with world fusion dance sounds by Matthew Monfort (scaloped fret-board guitar), Salah (Arabic percussion), Alan Tower (multiple didgeridu bass lines), and special guests including Founding Member of Ancient Future Mindia Devi (flutes, gamelan). Ancient Future is the world's first and longest running band dedicated to the creation of world fusion music. Their first show was on Feb. 11, 1979 in Fairfax at the Sleeping Lady Cafe. \$10. 8:30-11:30pm. 19 Broadway Niteclub, 17 Broadway Blvd, Fairfax. Info: 415-459-1091; www.ancient-future.com/bandtrancetrio.html

Thu

'Troijka'

@ Spanganga Gallery

Opening night: Based on the play *The Balcony* by French playwright/novelist/existential philosopher Jean Genet, Troijka takes place in a brothel at the center of an unknown city caught in the midst of a civil rebellion. Madame Yvette (Michaela Greeley) caters to a high end crowd of professionals turned on by enacting bizarre scenarios often involving the impersonation of various heads of state. A Judge (Lisa Swanson), a war hero (Warden Lawlor), and a bishop (Jesse Baldwin) all have their own doppleganger inside this unusual house of ill-repute, but no one has yet to impersonate the Chief of Police, much to the chagrin of the real-life leader, fame obsessed George (Ryan Hayes). Yvette would do anything to make George happy but he's currently more caught up in the suppression of a rebellion being led by Chantal (Miranda Calderon), a former star attraction at Madame's Yvette's, who has now become the star of the revolution, despite the wishes of her lover, Elliot (Dan Bridges), a plumber turned Bolshevik activist whose pure ideals are meaningless without Chantal to sell them to the people. Everything is taking a turn for the worst when it comes Tony (Wylie Herman), the last surviving royal dignitary, looking to re-write history to his own tune and willing to do whatever it takes to restore order to the nation — even if it means bringing down the real government, or crushing the innocent who stand in his way. \$10 at door. 8pm. Feb. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, Spanganga Gallery, 3376 19th St. (btwn Mission & Capp).

Whoa Nellies 'Bear Night'

@ Eagle Tavern

Join San Francisco's Queer Psychodelic Popsters, The Whoa Nellies (featuring Leigh Crow and Connie Champagne) as they celebrate International Bear Rendezvous with a special Bear-themed show. Furry favorites include "Hair", "Georgy Bear" and "The Bear Necessities" from The Jungle Book. Also on the bill: Talkonauts and Drop Quarters. \$6. 10pm. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: 415-626-0880; www.whoa-nellies.com

Garrin Benfield @ Cafe Du Nord

Garrin Benfield Band plays acoustic guitar-driven rock, folk and bluegrass on a bill with up-and-comer Vanessa Morrison and veteran guitarist Eric McFadden. 2170 Market St. 9pm. Info: www.garrin.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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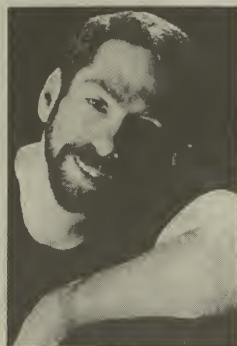
Fred Hersch to play the Herbst Theatre

by Michael McDonagh

Pianist Fred Hersch, who will play a solo date at Herbst Theatre on Saturday, February 7, has never struck this writer as nervous. He's always come off as serious, intense, yet almost pulled in. But reached by phone at his Lower Manhattan home last week, the busy musician showed further facets. He was utterly forthright and very talkative. What does he plan to play this Saturday? "I never plan when I play solo," he said. "I always play [Thelonious] Monk, and my stuff, and 95% of the time I play something by Cole Porter, but beyond that I usually don't plan for solo performances. The last time I played at Herbst was two or three seasons ago, and it's a great hall for solo piano. I find that my audiences there are warm, appreciative, attentive, and interested."

"A year from March, we're going to do my *Leaves of Grass* at Herbst, for San Francisco Performances' 25th anniversary season. I want to do that piece in San Francisco just because of the words and what Walt Whitman means to so many people. It's not in any way a gay piece. But certainly the libretto which I've extracted [from the book] is about universal love more than anything else, and those are words that need to be heard, always."

Hersch's latest benefit CD for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, *Two Hands, Ten Voices*, marshals the talents of that number of New York-based singers. A socially conscious artist, he's also



"I keep trying to challenge myself."

contributed to the *AIDS Quilt Songbook*. But Hersch can hardly be pigeonholed as just a gay artist, because his musical sympathies have ranged so far and wide. As a pianist, he's functioned as leader, soloist and sideman, and as a composer he's worked in both classical and jazz styles. Indeed, the most recent of his many honors, a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship, has allowed him to write his Whitman piece (the funding also comes from the Estate Project for Artists with AIDS) as well as a piano-violin-cello trio and a string quartet.

Going from one idiom to another helps keep things fresh for Hersch. "I haven't become bored with playing," he noted. "As I get older, I tend to play in more diverse situations, I keep trying to challenge myself. Every project has a different focus. In my latest record, *The Fred Hersch Trio + 2* [to be released on Palmetto

Records on March 13], the focus is still on the trio, but using the horns — Ralph Alessi, trumpet/flugelhorn, and Tony Malaby, tenor saxophone — to expand the sound of the trio in a few places." The album, which is a sort of sequel to the spectacularly varied *Live at The Village Vanguard*, also on Palmetto, gets some of its texture, weight and drive from these new additions to the pianist-composer's restlessly shifting palette. It's graced with Hersch's much-vaunted lyricism. And there's hard-driving blues-based stuff which shows that he can swing as hard as any pianist on the scene.

Hersch has seen much come and go. But in our wide-ranging phone conversation, he doesn't come off as the least bit jaded. Rather, he sounds like he's forging ahead with quiet yet infinitely steady determination, and stretching out in as many directions as time and space will allow. That means doing everything from playing for operatic soprano Renee Fleming, and with fellow pianist Christopher O'Riley, to soloing for an AIDS benefit in Seattle next Tuesday, February 10. He's thankful to be doing what he loves to do. "It's still a real privilege and a pleasure to play a solo concert in a great hall," he remarked. You feel that he really means it, which is inspiring in our oh-so-jaded, timid age. ▼

Fred Hersch plays February 7, 8 p.m., at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Info: (415) 398.6449, or www.performances.org.

Ouch! I am so hip!

by Sweet Lips

Last time it was my wrist, and this time it's my hip! Sorry to say, but I've taken another spill, and this time I've broken my right hip. Ouch! It's not easy being 80! I am currently recovering at Kaiser. However, I'm still up to my old tricks, gathering tips from the gals around town about what's happening, bar-wise!

This Saturday, February 7, is "Emperor's Night Out," presented by SF Emperor XVI A.N. Steven Rascher. You'll find fundraisers at three lively locations, with bus service to take you to all three parties (bus tickets are \$10 per per-

son; pay when you get on the bus). The festivities kick off in the Castro at the Metro (3600 16th St. at Noe & Market; phone 703-9751), where it's cocktail time from 6-8 p.m. Then it's time to hop aboard the bus and head to lovely Hayes Valley, where everyone will pack into Marlena's (488 Hayes St.; 864-6672) from 8:15-10:15 p.m. After that, stumble aboard the bus for delivery to your final Polkstrasse destination, the famed Club RendezVous (1312 Polk St. at Bush;

309-CLUB), arriving in the middle of Suzie Wong's Chinese New Year Party! That lasts from 10:30 p.m. 'til who knows when.

Watch for the Portland Party on Feb. 27, Coronation Day. The party will be held at Club RendezVous from 11 a.m. 'til 1 p.m., hosted by Emperor Rascher and Yours Truly, Czarina Sweet

Lips, if my crutches will carry me! It will be an earring party. You have to wear one, or buy one for the Portland Charity. Hope to see you there! ▼

SF IndieFest

◀ page 30

young mystery-writer mistakenly committed to a mental hospital. The main selling point is the fabulous Justin Kirk playing in a lower key than his superheated patient in *Angels in America* — but with a less fashionable haircut; the raccoon look around his eyes to convey a troubled, poetic soul; and the special added attraction of an artfully-lit nude scene. The hospital story is a device to facilitate a sneaky relationship between Kirk and a perky, overly solicitous blonde nurse (Catherine Kellner). The flashback scenes to

Kirk's abused childhood have a slightly shopworn quality. (Roxie, 2/8, 11)

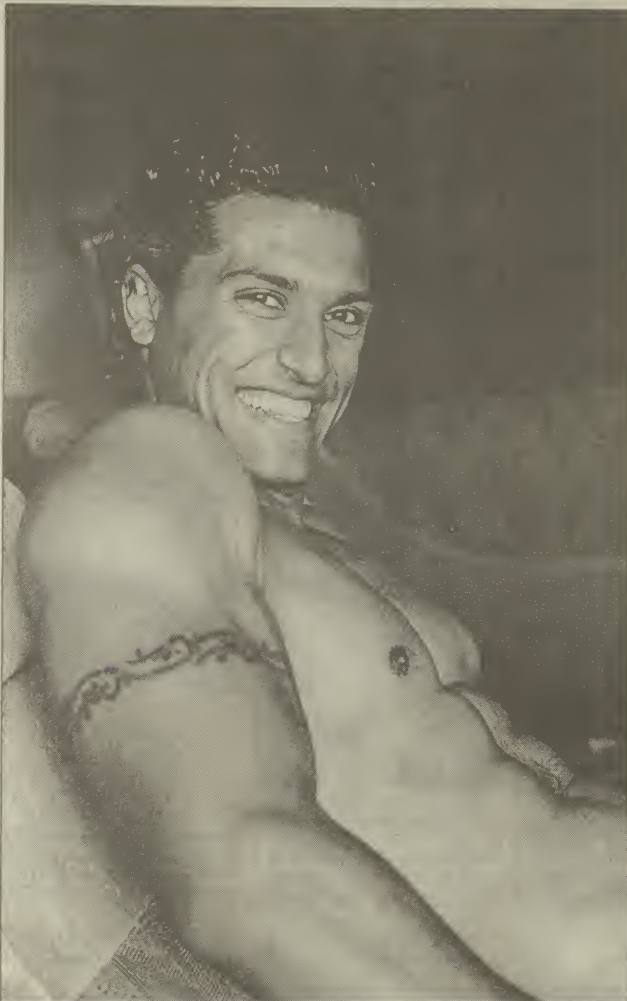
Undermind A low-budget version of one of Hollywood's oldest plots: two 27-year-old strangers, an alcoholic Park Avenue lawyer and a drug-dealer wanted for killing a cop, swap identities. Nevil Dwek keeps the proceedings moving at a brisk pace, overcoming a weak first act and overly familiar supporting characters to keep us hooked through narrative twists and turns that are as confusing as his doppelgänger heroes' states of mind. Like in old b&w noirs, the fun arises from atmosphere and lead Sam Trammell's

ability to match his dual personalities with his haircuts. (Roxie, 2/9, 15)

Running on Karma Hong Kong cutie Andy Lau stars in a stylish thriller set against the backdrop of the worlds of martial artists, bodybuilders and male strippers. The film has the Hong Kong action genre's usual quota of blood sports, a 93-minute nonstop adrenaline rush. It would appear that a typical police interrogation there bears a remarkable resemblance to a night of WWF bouts. (Roxie, 2/6) ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10
Talked briefly at concession stand before movie "Devil". You: slim, medium height, dark (Tamil? Bengali?) Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: EROS 1-11-04
Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you...If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Mr. Mill Valley, SAT. 1/10, SOMA
Your Outstanding. I'd like to reconnect. Please call. ☎ 71058

Saturday 1/10 Bus #48 4:40 pm
You chubby white man aboard bus at Potrero and 24th street. Seated Front. Asked me the time. I reply 20 to 5:00. We looked at each other. You wore beige jacket, glasses w/cane. Me Latin w/bomber jacket, kahki pants. We got off at the same stop. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71057

Red Jeep Driving Down 15th St.
We've exchanged glances at least four times now. I was walking my dog this time. Would love to say hello in person. ☎ 71073

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Free Spaghetti
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

I'm Attracted To Mature Big Men
Looking for 50-65, 225-285, burly, portly, plump men. I'm GLM 45, HIV-, 5'10", 200, very affectionate, clean cut, smooth, love to make love, cuddle, like to read, walk, nature, my work. ☎ 71040

Husky GLM Bottom
Sagittarius 38yo, 155 lbs, 5'8", nice round ass, slim body HIV+, healthy. Seeking guys under 40 smooth, slim body. Race and size is unimportant. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Gemini, Aries, Taurus, Leo. SF only. ☎ 71059

Seeking Friendship and More
33, Healthy HIV+, 160#, Brn, Bm eyes. Likes books, movies, theatre, cooking, and fitness. Looking to meet someone special. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71060

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples
I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Looking for a smooth, muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth and wish to satisfy you. ☎ 71061

Muscular Italian AM Seeks Asian
To date on a regular basis. Please be smooth, fit and honest, 25-50, and know what you want. I'm 46 yo, passionate, sensual, sincere. You be mature, honest, and please no games/BS. No one night stands. ☎ 71062

Bound and Gagged
GWM, 46, 5'10", 160, lean, hairy seeks masculine man for dating/possible relationship. Very Turned on by role-play, tie up games, top and bottom, securely bound and gagged. Must love bondage. ☎ 71063

Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear
ISO friendship or LTR with HIV- GWM, GHM, 38-52. I enjoy movies, gardening, cooking, the ocean; Me: GWM, 5'9", S&P, blue. SF & Peninsula area. ☎ 71064

Positives Unite!
Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom leading resourceful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072

Looking for that Special Man
I am looking for that special man that I can spend the rest of my life with as my best friend and life partner. I am 5'11", 180#, Italian, HIV-, versatile. You should be GWM, GLM, 40-60. Can't wait to meet. Serious only. ☎ 71069

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 180#, Redhead, Mobile Home owner. Ex Navy. Enjoy drumming, talk radio, chess and tennis. Seeking Female. ☎ 71070

Craving Affection?
Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding new friend to talk to and be held and touched? Slim masculine guy 44 seeks another slim, masculine guy younger or same age, any race. ☎ 71074

GLM 50 Near Lake Merritt
seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 71075

The Hottest Guy In Town
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SEEKING ADVENTURE

ISO Pie-In Bay Area
Serious but ironic pie thrower seeks same for mutual fun and gratification. Not looking for love just pie. P.S. I never duck. ☎ 71041

Traveling Companion Sought
To share expenses for cruises, hotel, tours, etc. Any race to age 40. Plutonic relationship. Prefer gym goer and healthy eater. Must be non-smoker. No drugs either please. ☎ 71042

Cocksucker Needed
Strip naked, get on your knees and open your mouth. Dominant trim waisted WM 44 with mushroom sausage seeks submissive trim waisted guy younger or same age. ☎ 71043

Rim Chair Service Available
If you want your butt hole treated right, then bring it to me kissing sweet. ☎ 71044

Looking For A Hung Guy?
If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least "9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

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Looking For Guys In Marin
I'm looking for guys in Marin County, who are hung or good looking, for fun and good times, to party, etc. ☎ 71054

Hard Body Hung Dark Meat
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Novice Curious about Anal Sex
Seeking older man with six inches who will take it slow while giving me my first anal exp. Me: 40yo, Brn., Hazel. You over 50 yo. ☎ 71068

Spanker Wanted for DJK
Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you and no reciprocity required. Me: 159 Lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can Do Scenes. ☎ 71065

Above N' Beyond
Let me be myself, hang between your legs and smell your scent. You place your legs on my shoulders. Make it happen. ☎ 71066

Hot Mature Men
Passionate LM 46, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure to senior men. Bearded, kissing, loners. Husky non-gym a plus. Possible LTR. Not into pain, S&M or the gay lifestyle. ☎ 71067

Desire Thick Cocked Average/Masculine Guy
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into joys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 71076

POZ Freak
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Let me 63 year old 2nd slave needs emotional pain, not physical. Will collect filth & waste, do laundry, help you find choice 1st slave. I need to be #2. S 71047

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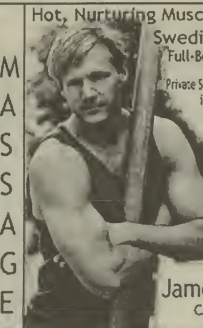
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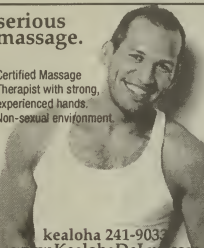
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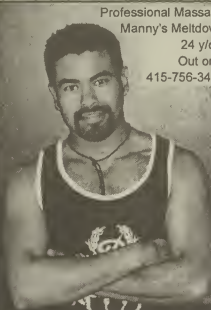
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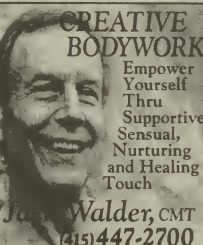
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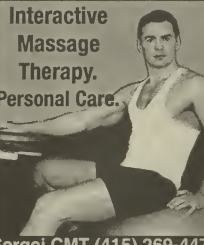
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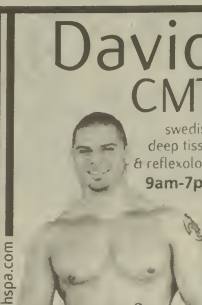
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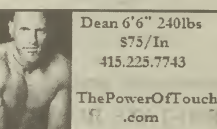
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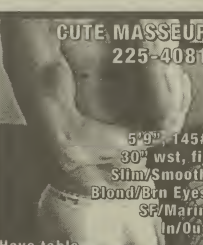


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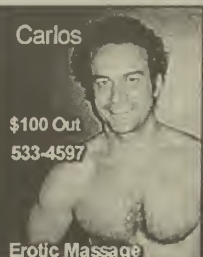
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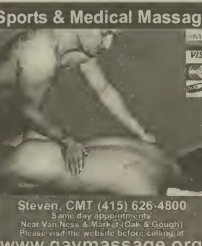
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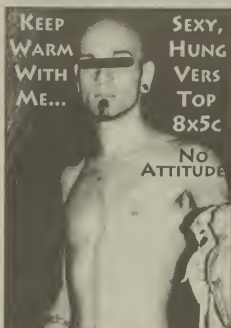
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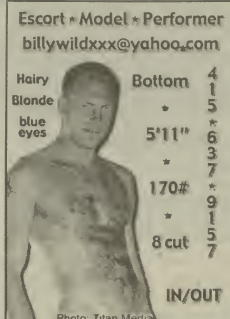


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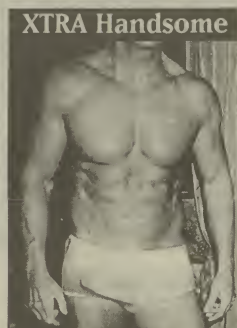
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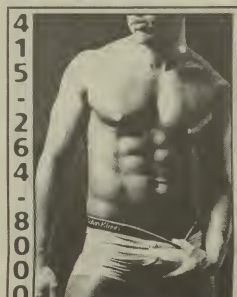


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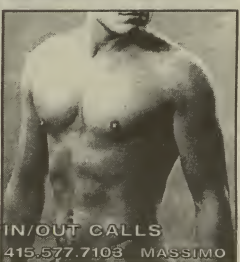
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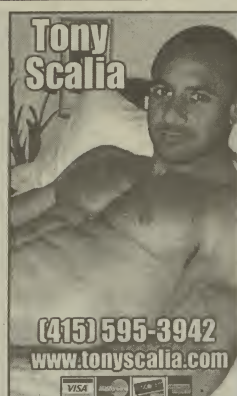
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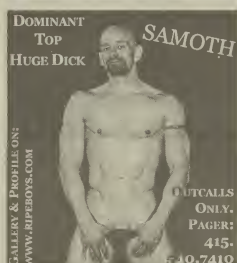


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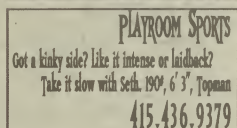
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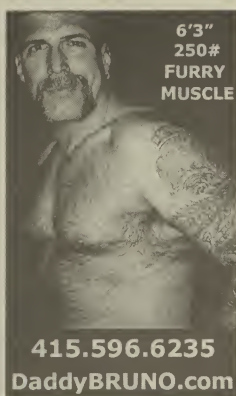
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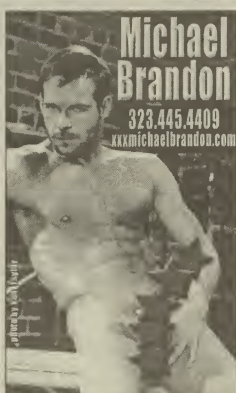
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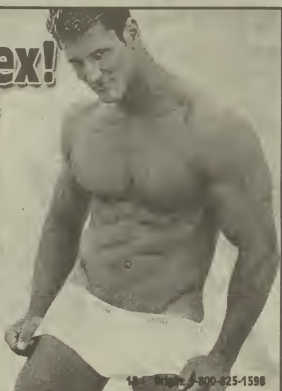
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